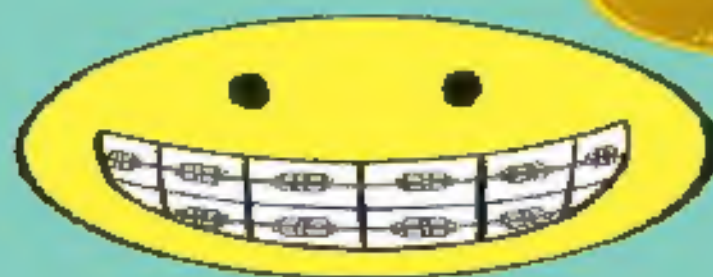


From the #1 New York Times Bestselling Author  
Raina Telgemeier

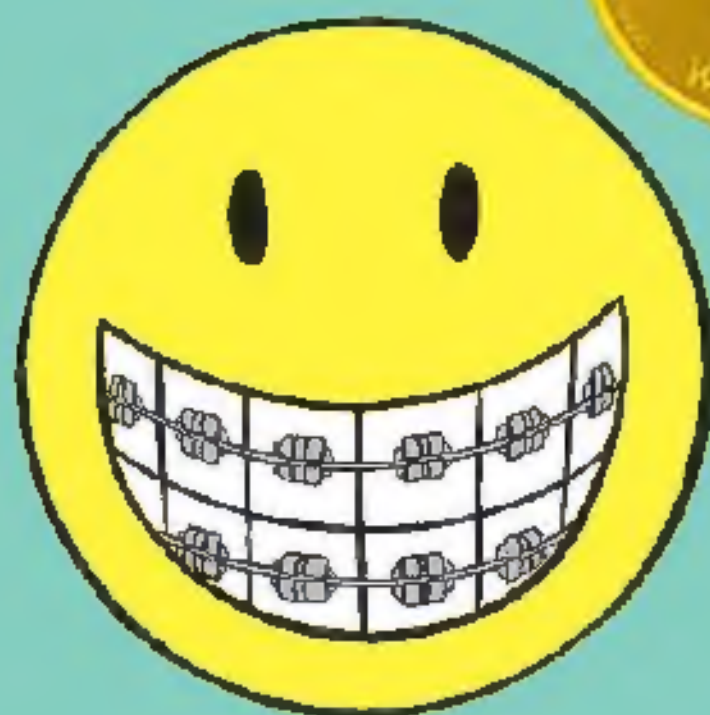


# Smile

 SCHOLASTIC

From the #1 New York Times Bestselling Author

Raina Telgemeier



# Smile

 SCHOLASTIC

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased by 1.5 million, from 2.5 million in 1980 to 4 million in 1999. The public sector has also become an increasingly important employer of women, with the proportion of public sector employees who are women increasing from 40% in 1980 to 55% in 1999.

There are a number of reasons why the public sector has become an increasingly important employer of women. One reason is that the public sector has become an increasingly important provider of social services, such as health care, education, and social care. Another reason is that the public sector has become an increasingly important provider of employment opportunities for women, particularly in the areas of health care, education, and social care. A third reason is that the public sector has become an increasingly important provider of employment opportunities for women, particularly in the areas of health care, education, and social care.

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Smile

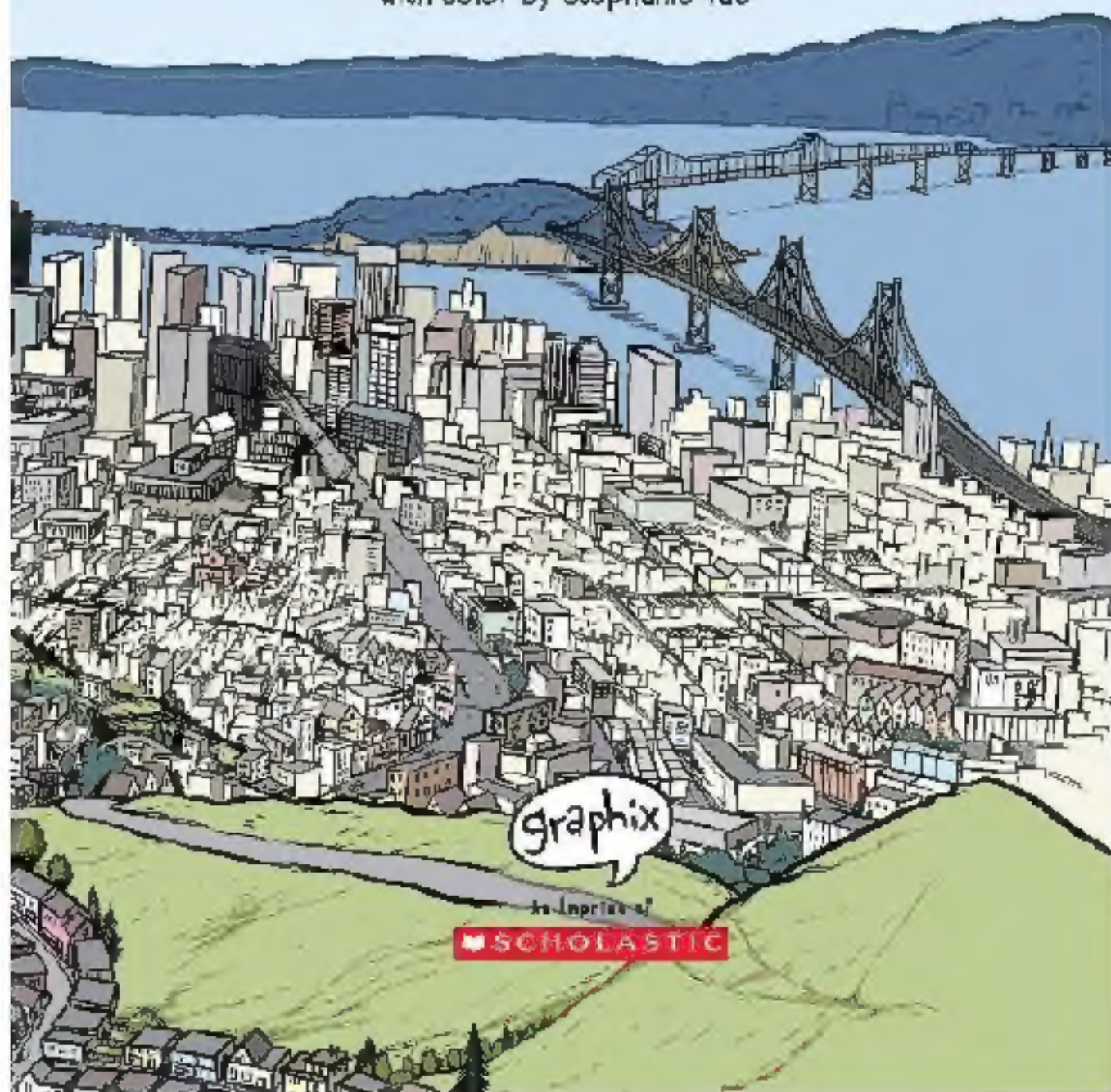




# Smile

Raina Telgemeier

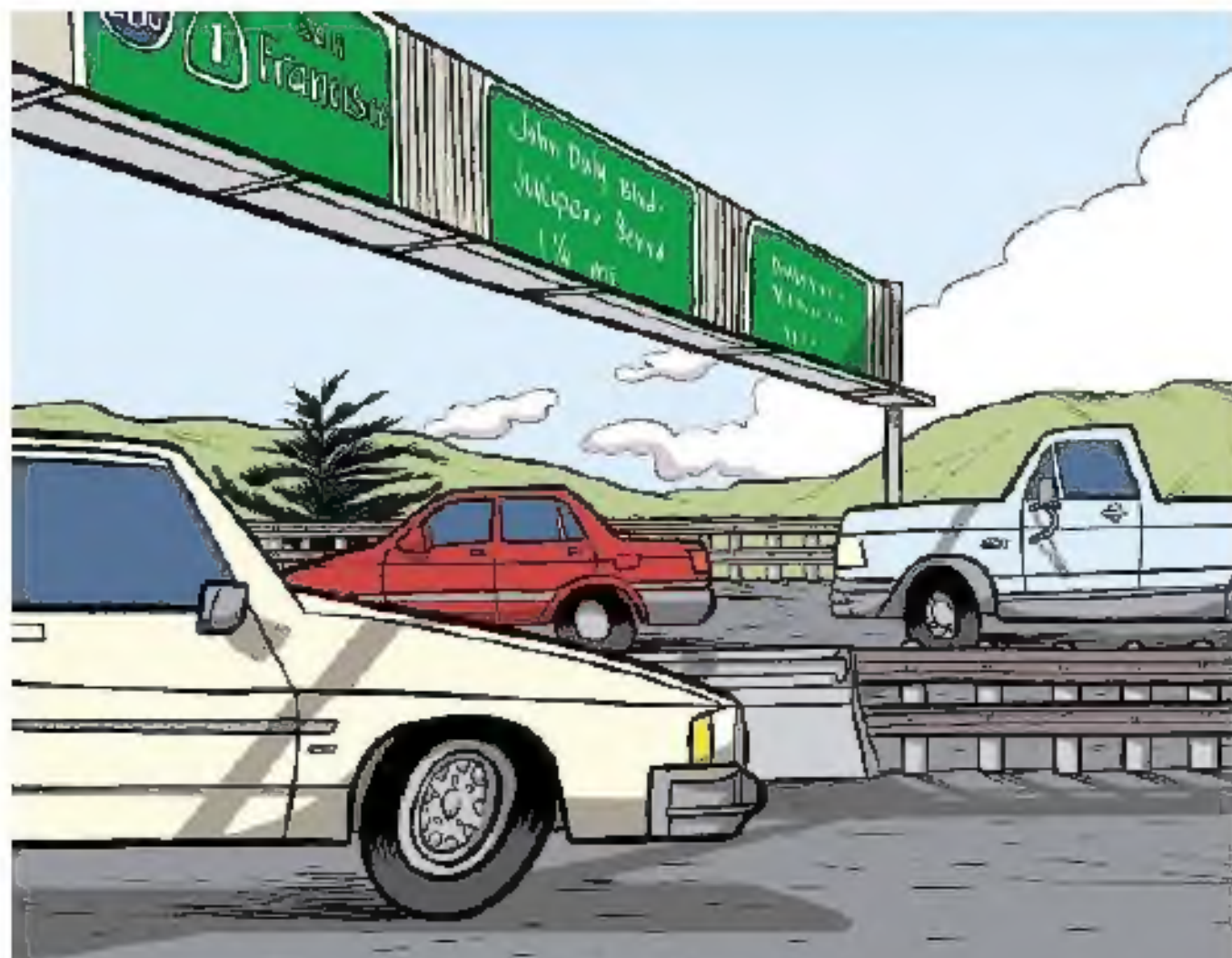
with color by Stephanie Yue



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This graphic novel is based on personal experiences, though some names have been changed, and certain characters, places, and incidents have been modified in service of the story.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Telgemeier, Reina.

Smile / Reina Telgemeier — 1st ed.  
p.cm.

1. Youth—Dental care. 2. Girls—Dental care. 3. Self-esteem in adolescence.

4. Beauty—Personal. 5. Graphic novels. I. Title.

PS35.769.T45 2010

637.649—dc22

2009007192

e-ISBN 978-0-545-78001-8

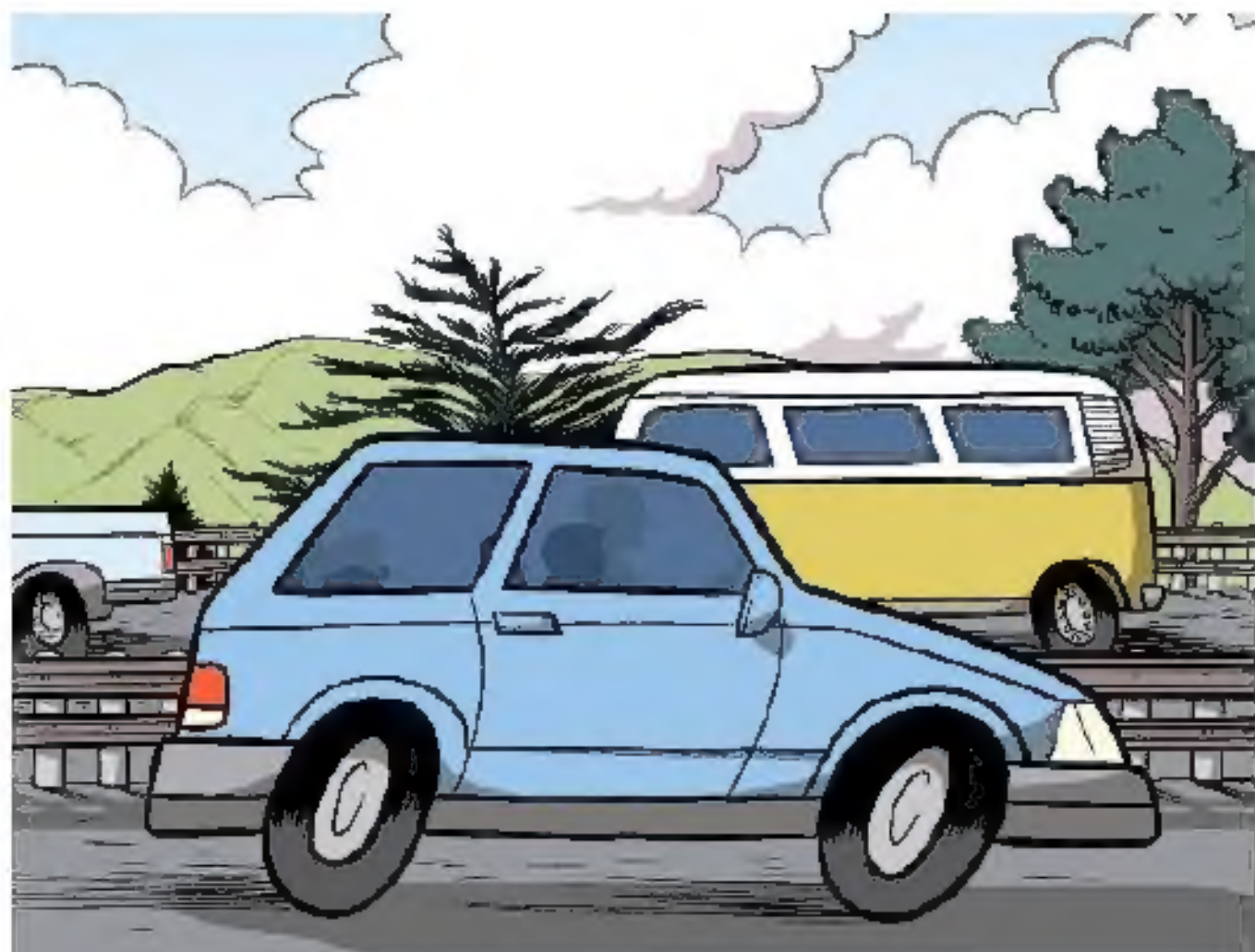
First edition, February 2010

Edited by Cassandra Polham

Book designed by Phil Folan and Jason Shoop

Creative Director: David Saylor



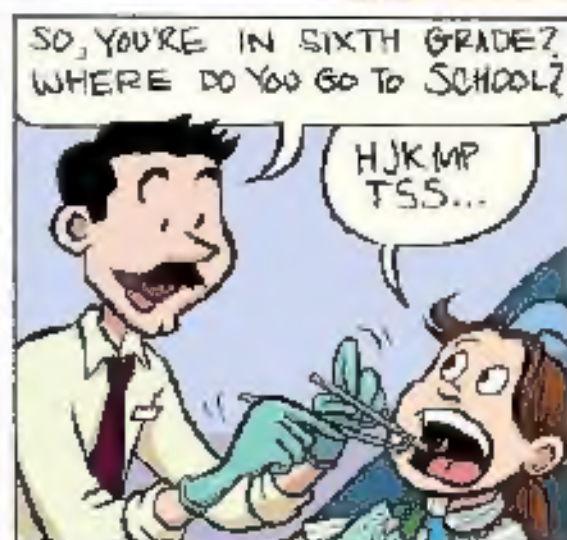


For Dave

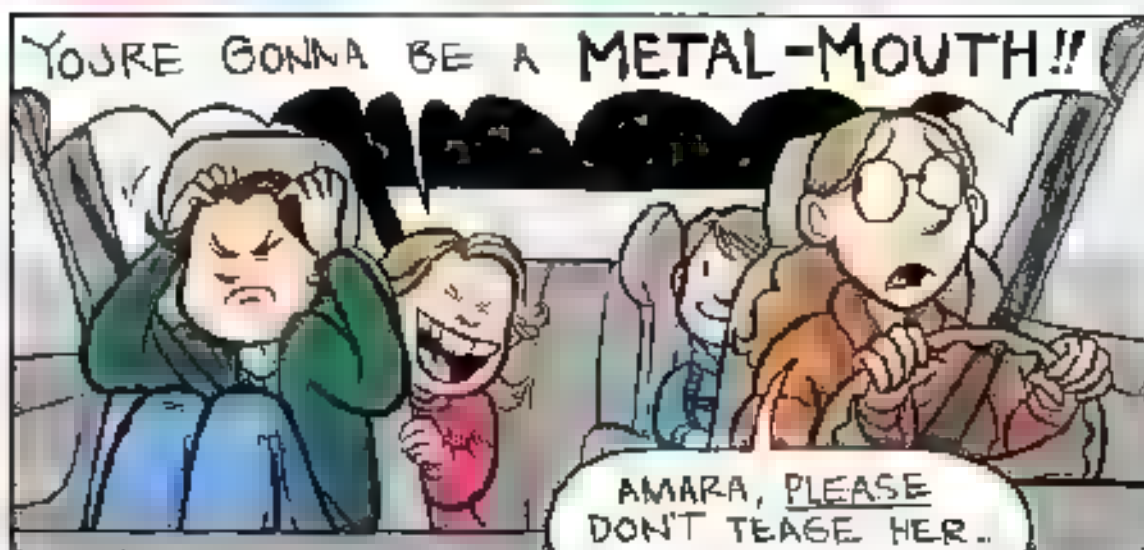
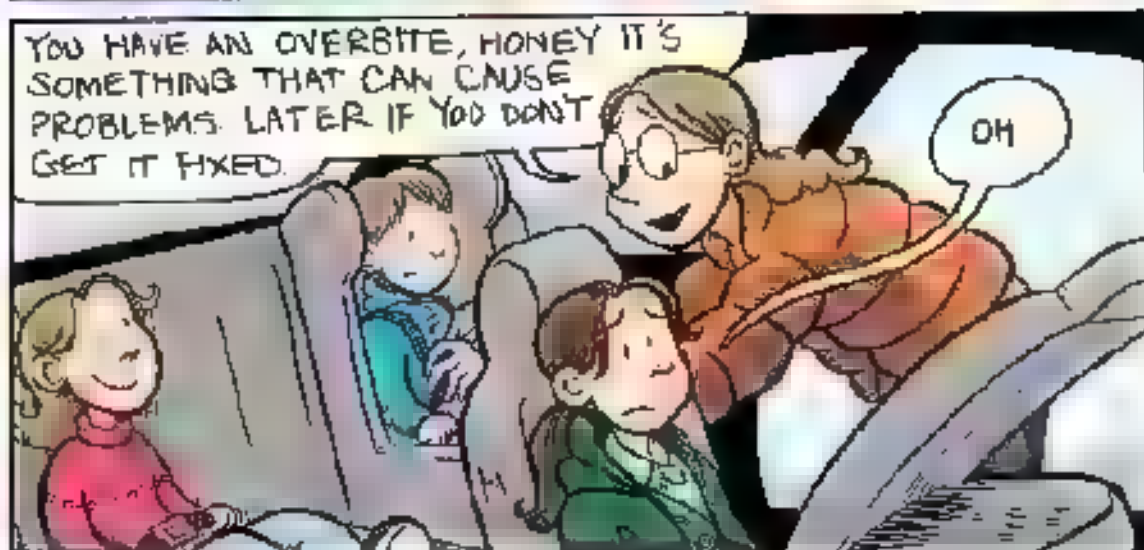


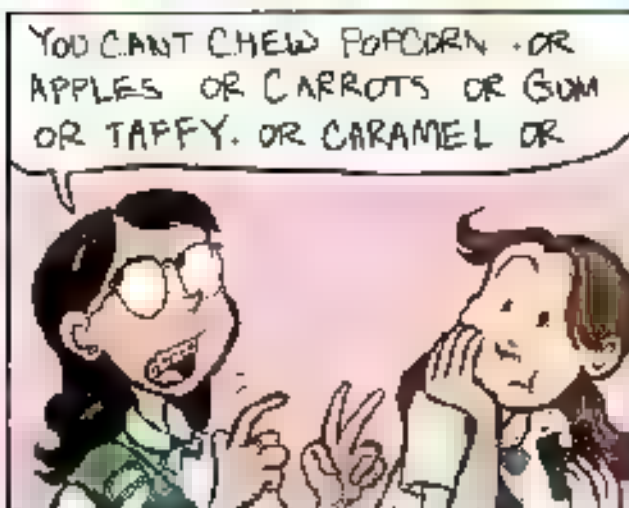
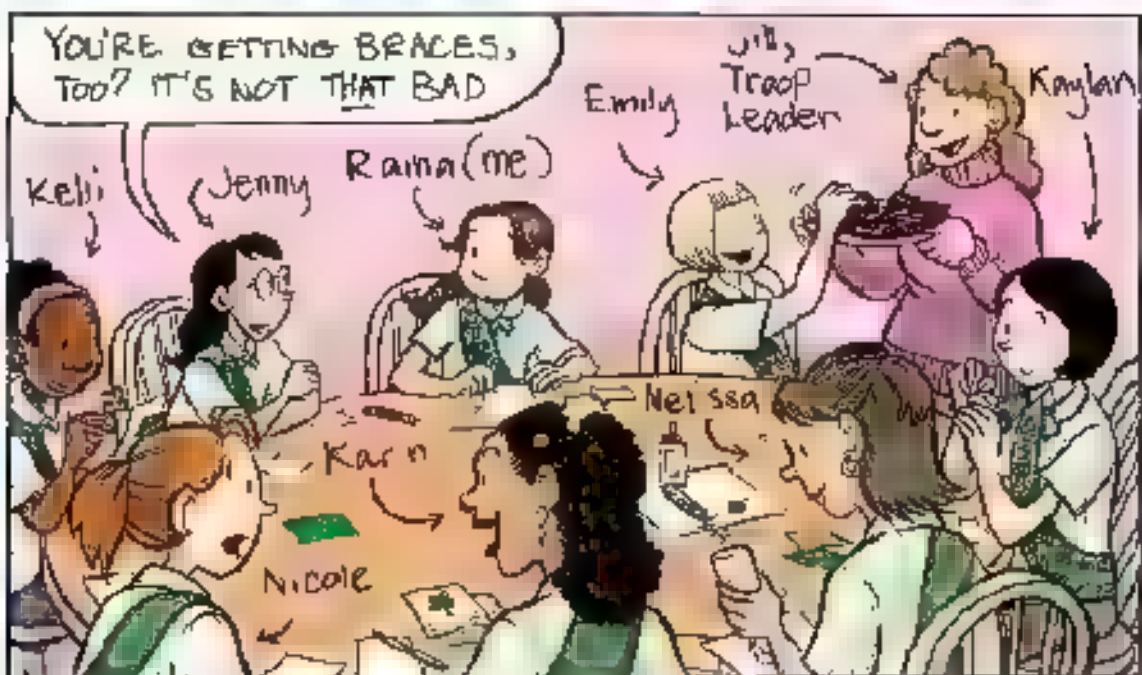


## CHAPTER ONE



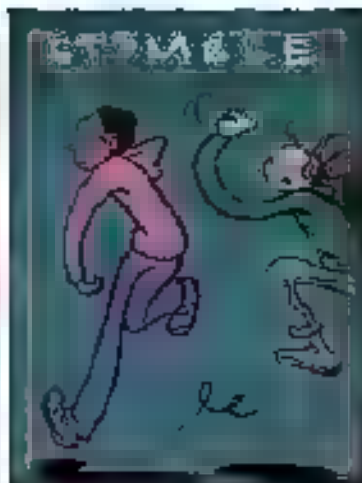


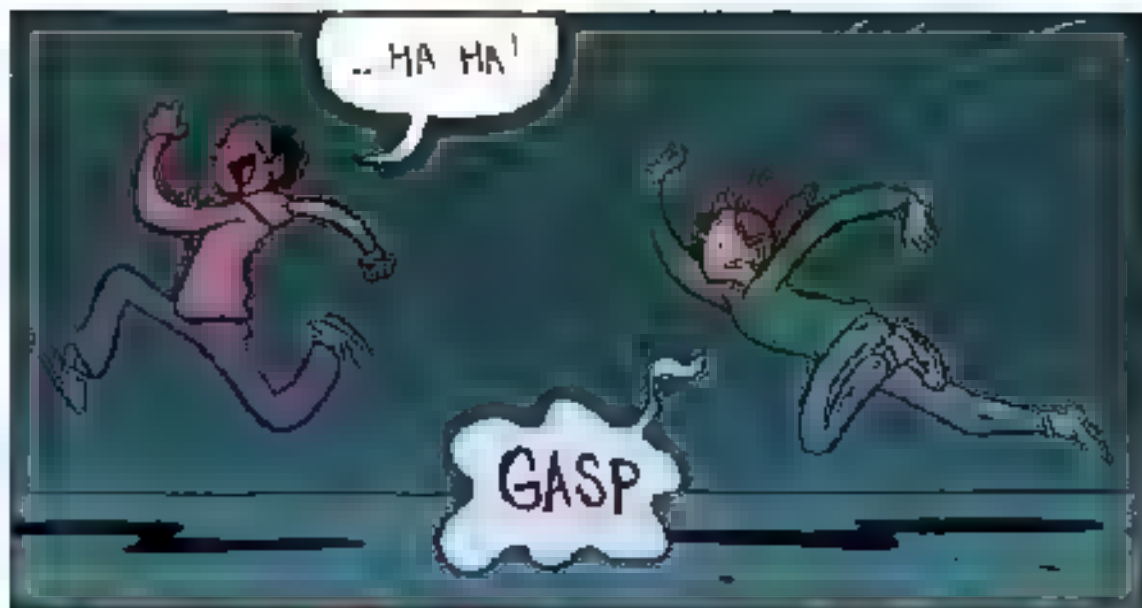






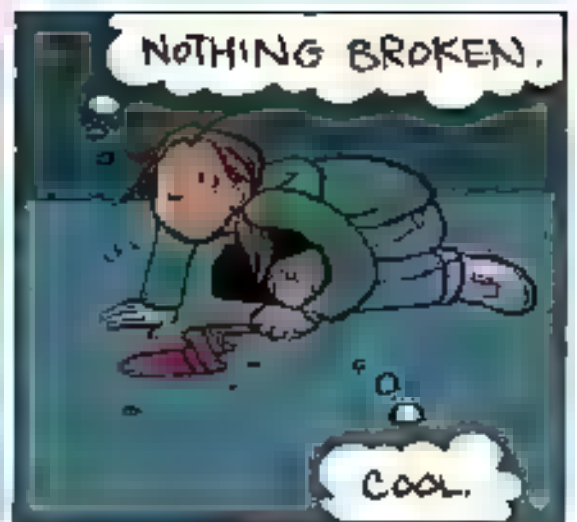






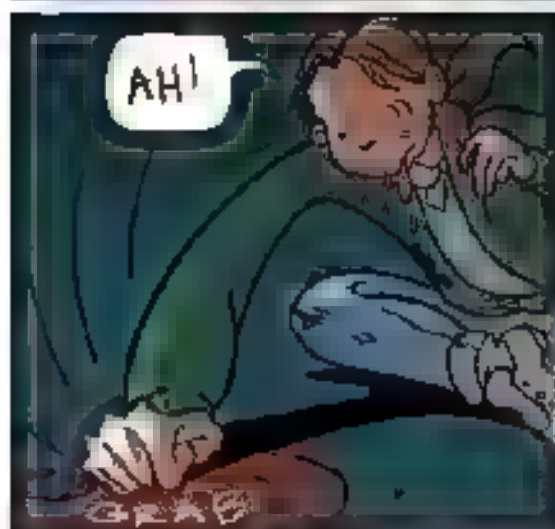
★ WHAM! ★

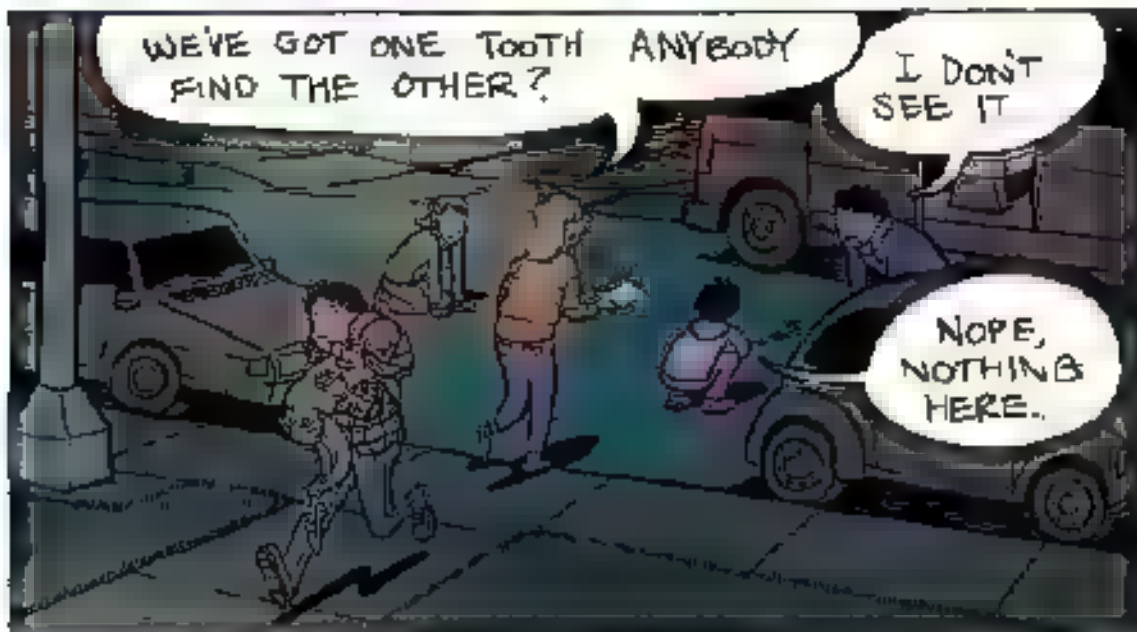






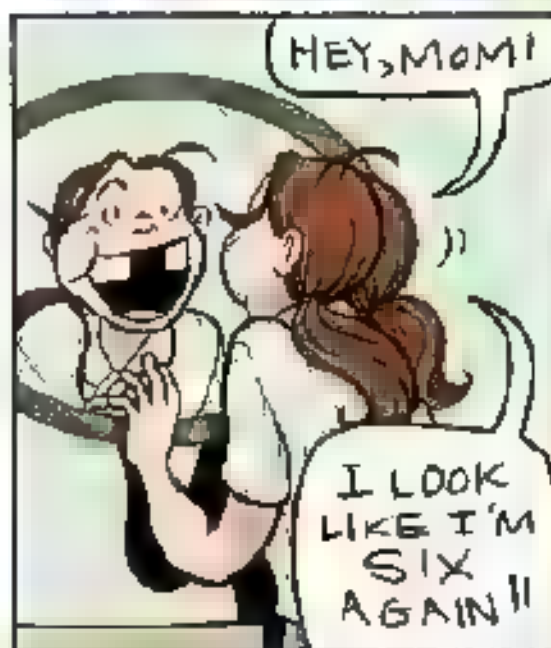


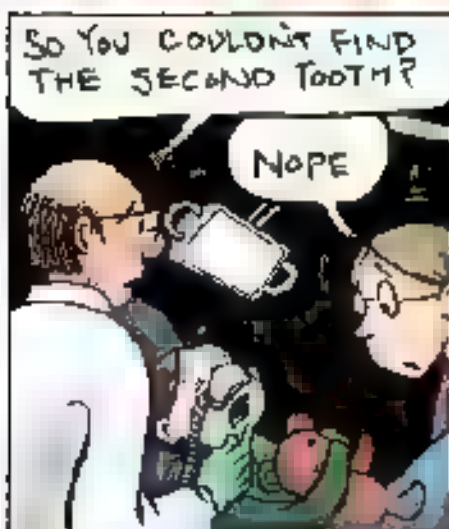












I don't remember  
the rest of that  
night too well



Dr Golden put the  
tooth that fell out  
back in place .



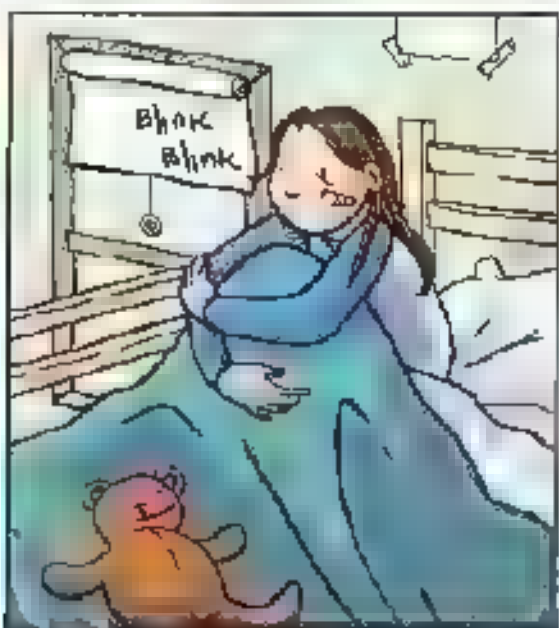
.. and pulled the  
other one down from  
out of my gum  
(where it was stuck)

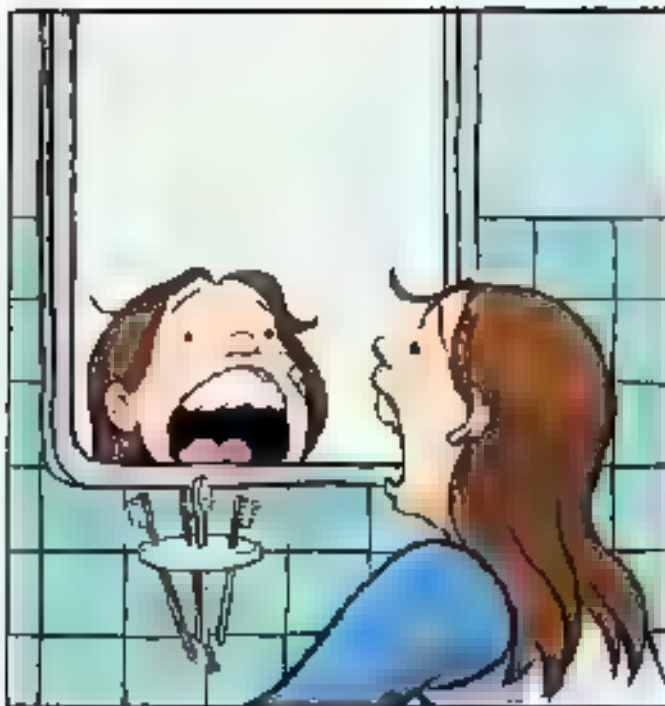


Novocaine, nitrous, and codeine  
in my sleepy, overwhelmed body

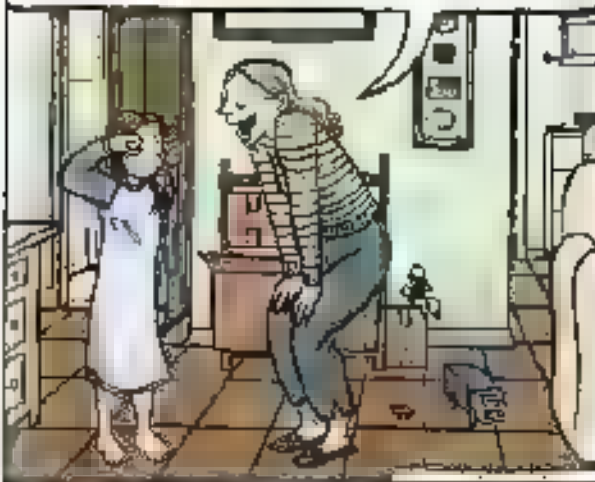


made the whole thing  
seem like a weird dream.





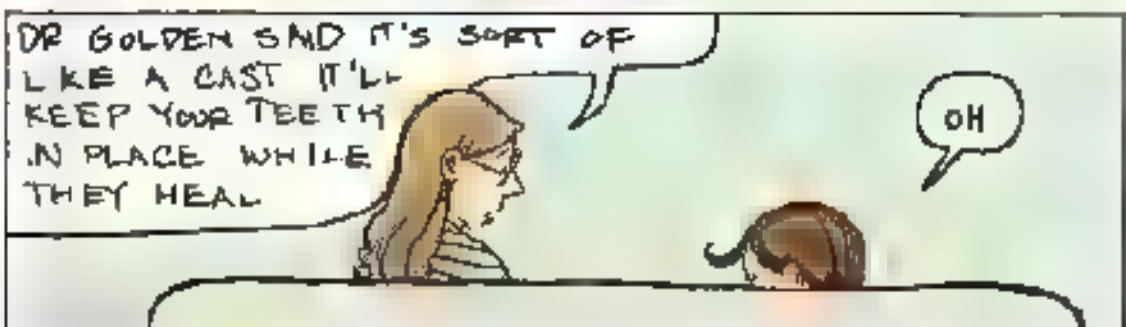
OH, HONEY, YOU'RE AWAKE. HOW ARE YOU FEELING? DO YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?



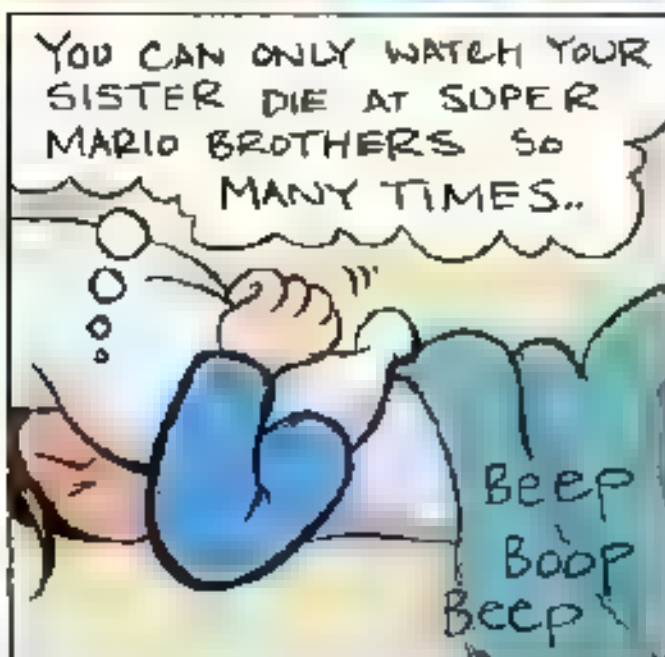
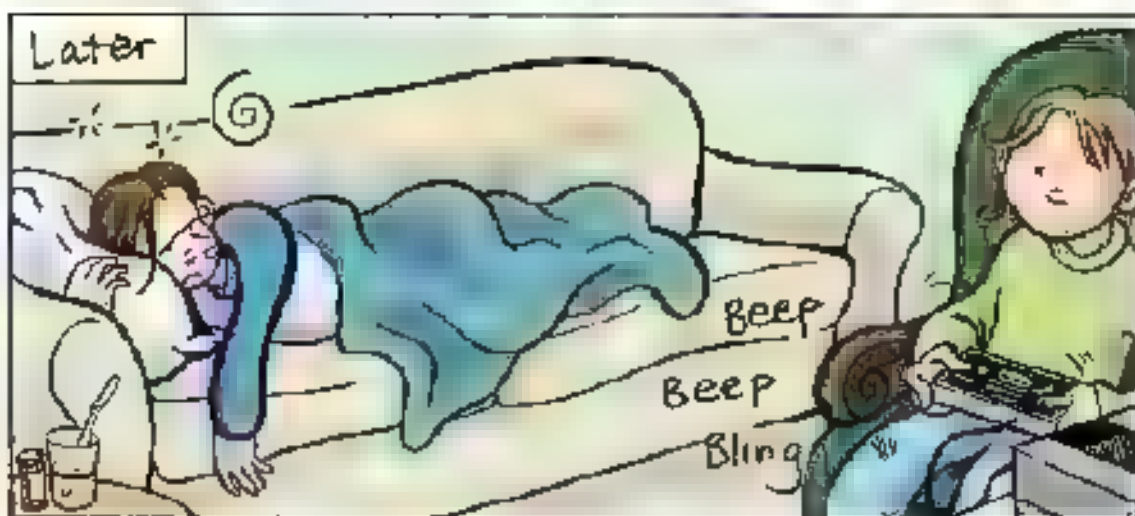
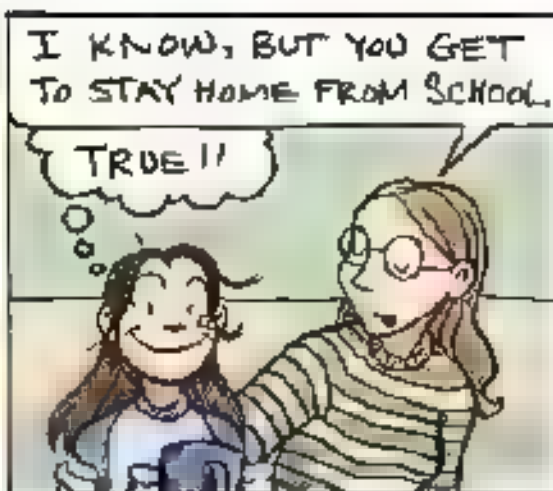
WHAT' TH THTH THTH OFF ON MY TEETH??



DR GOLDEN SMD IT'S SORT OF LIKE A CAST IT'LL KEEP YOUR TEETH IN PLACE WHILE THEY HEAL

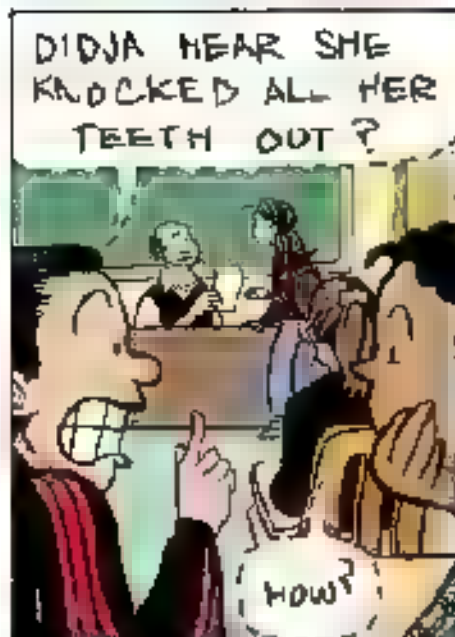
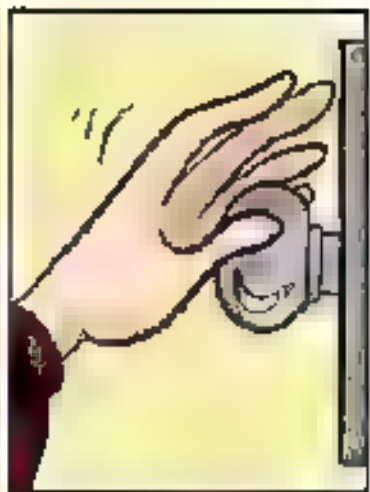




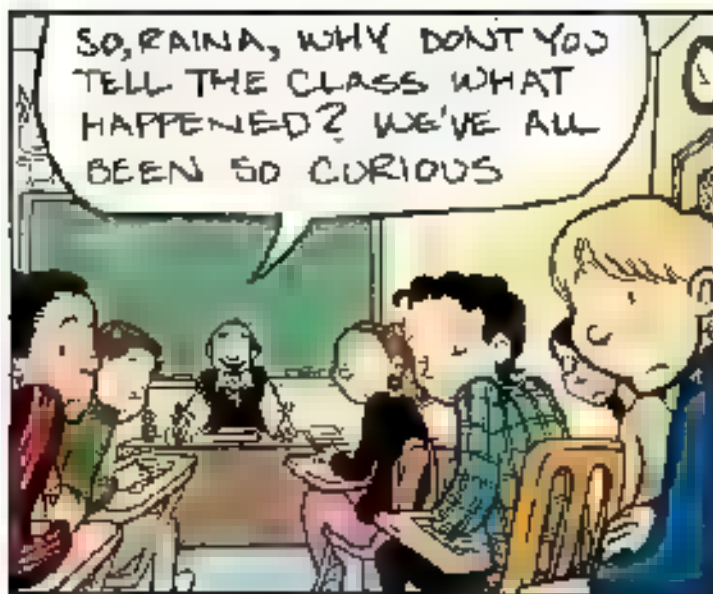


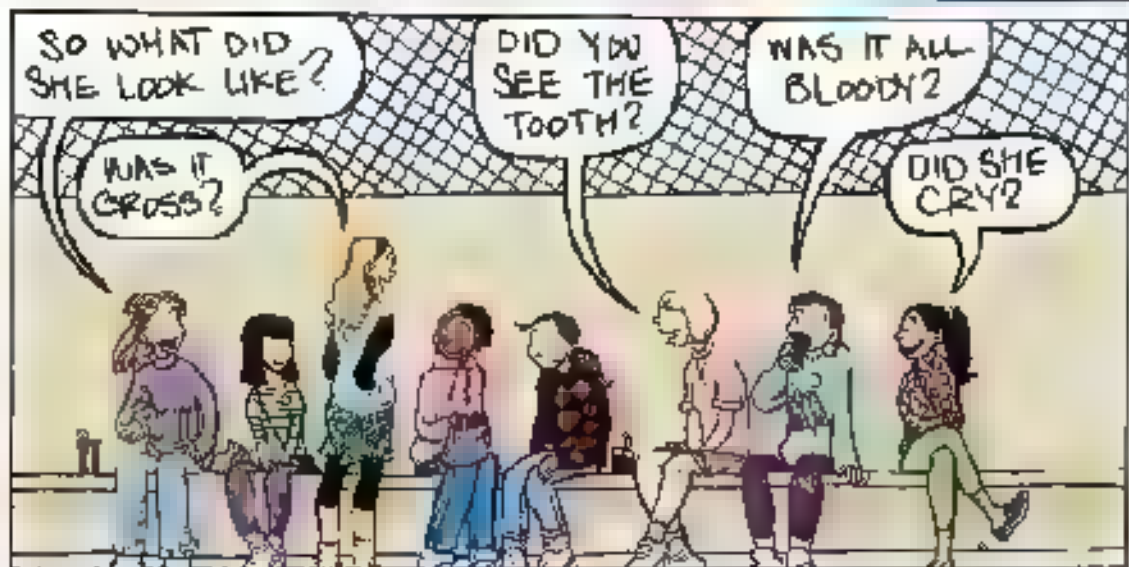
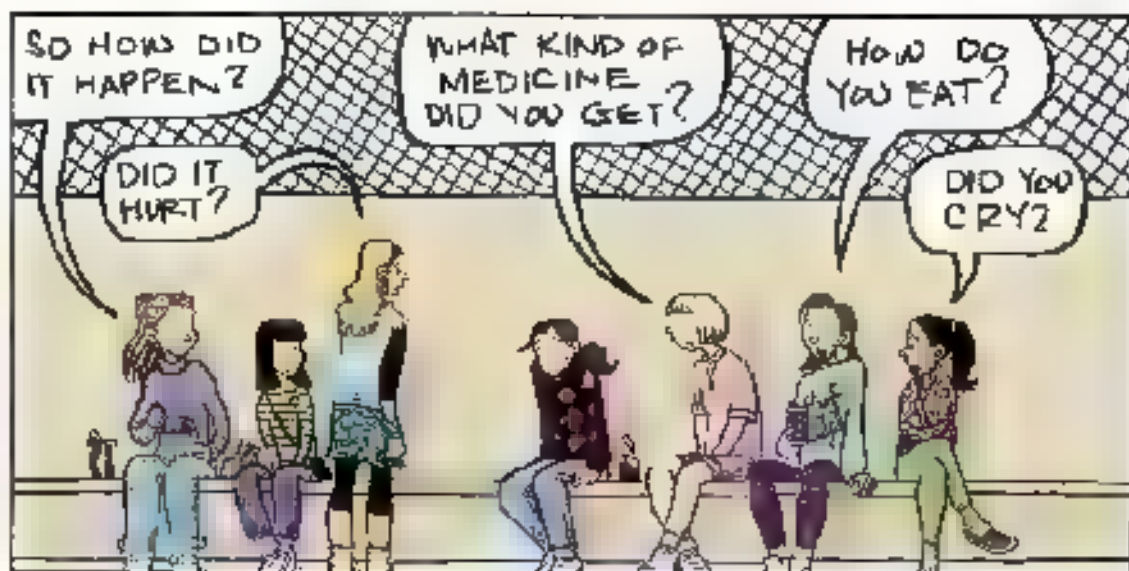


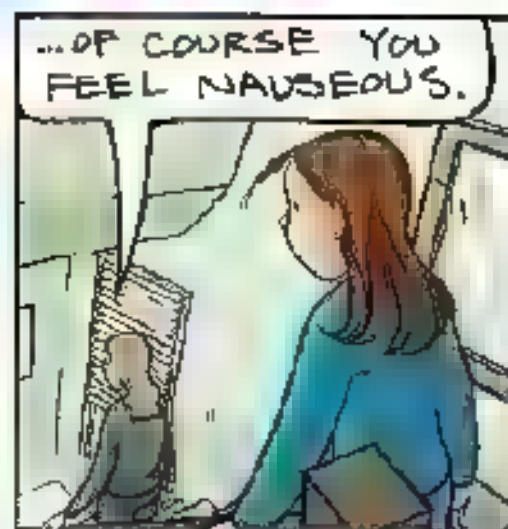
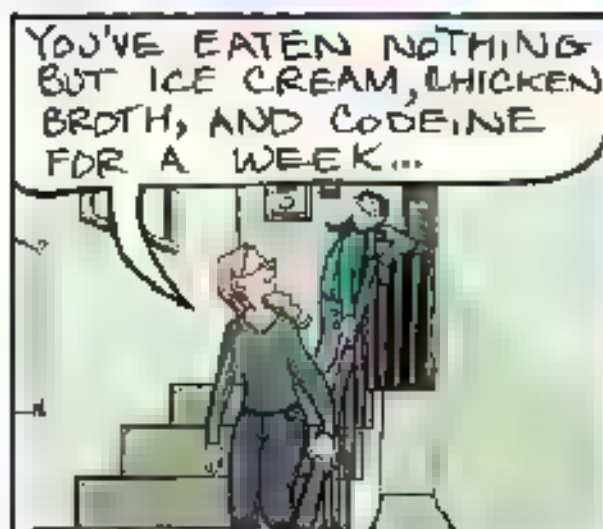
The following week



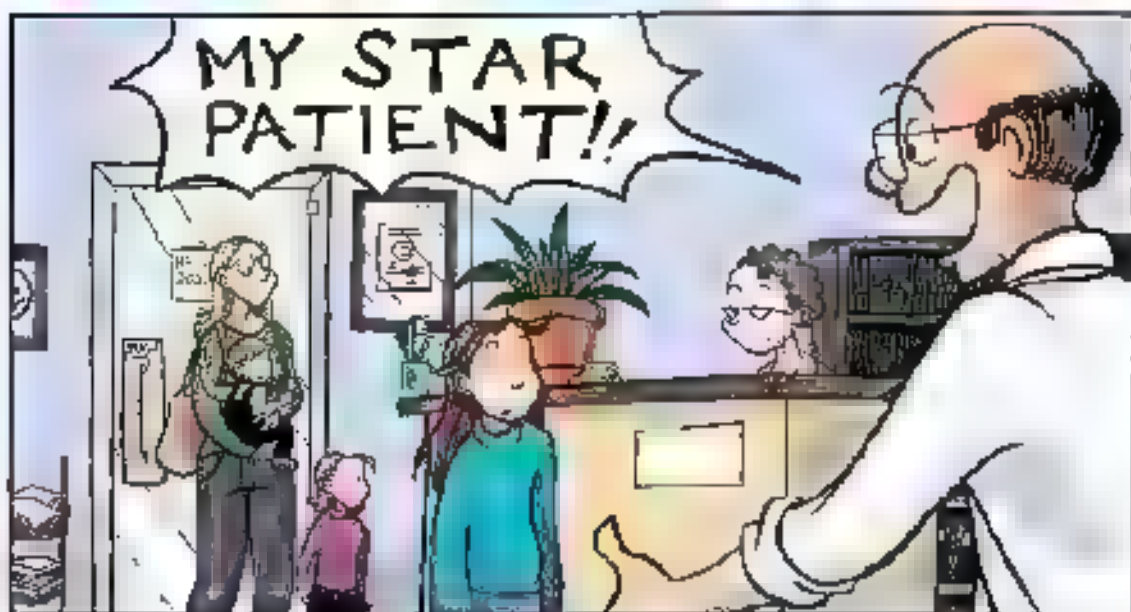
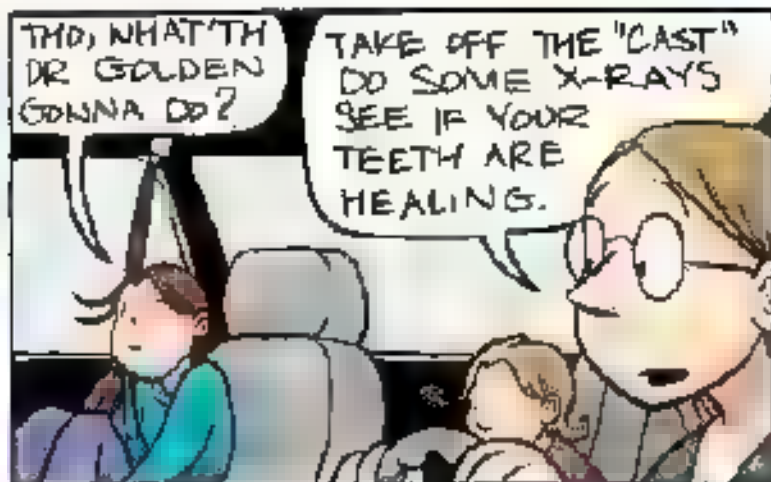












GLAD TO SEE YOU FEELING BETTER, RAINA! YOU TOOK QUITE A FALL THAT NIGHT!

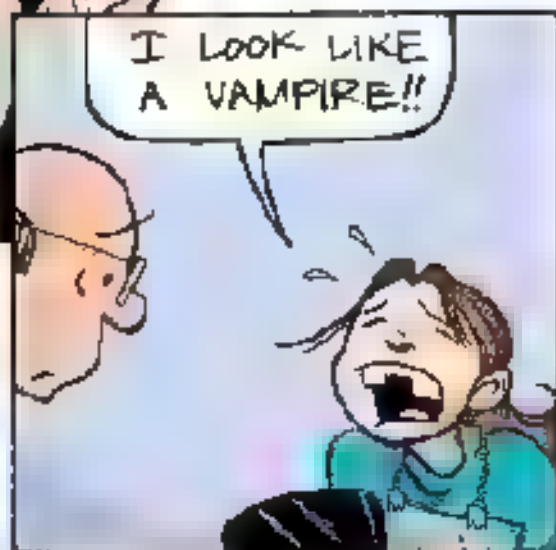
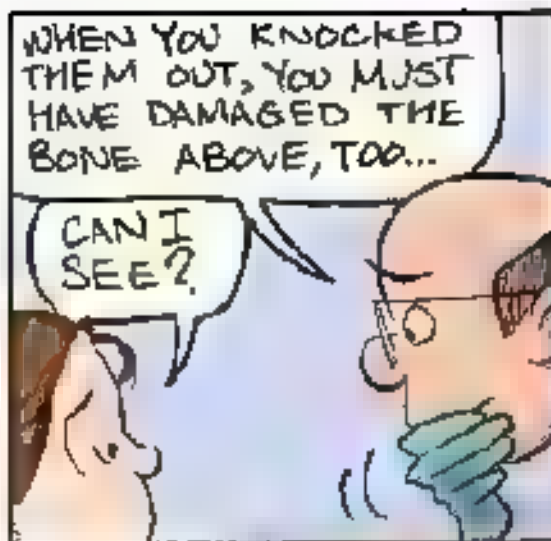


SO WE'RE JUST GOING TO REMOVE THE PLASTER SEAL

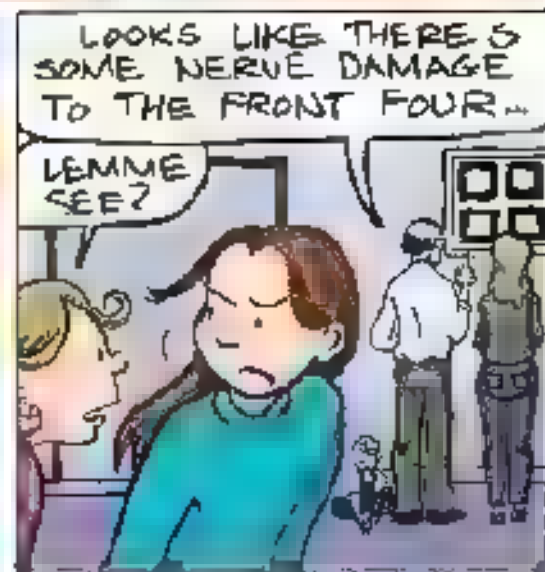
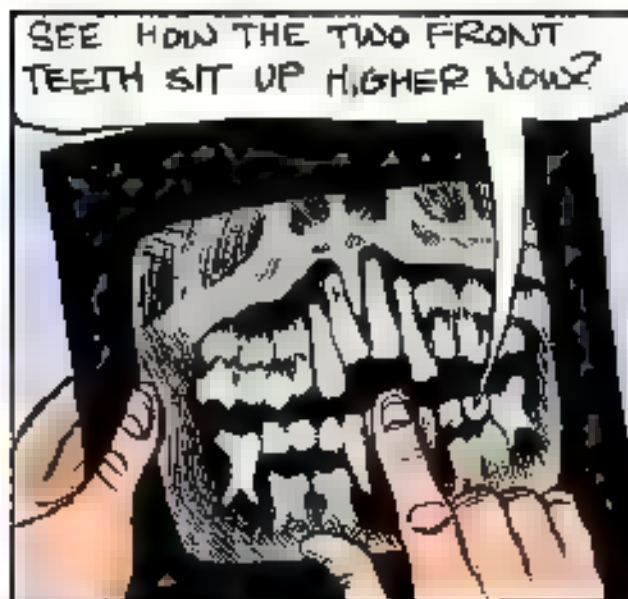


YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR TEETH AGAIN!

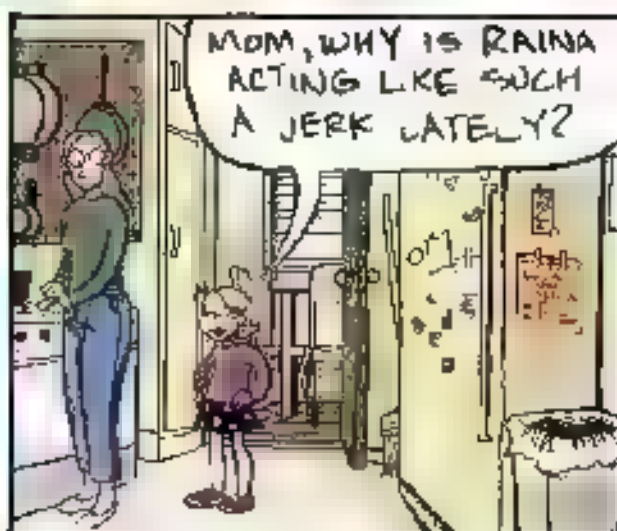












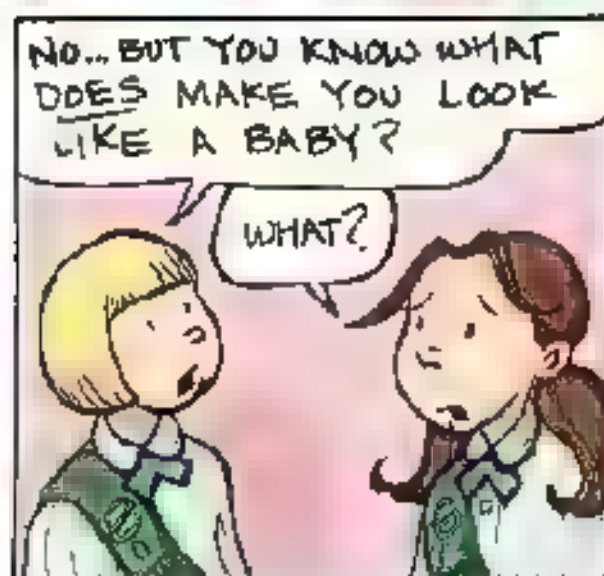


## CHAPTER TWO

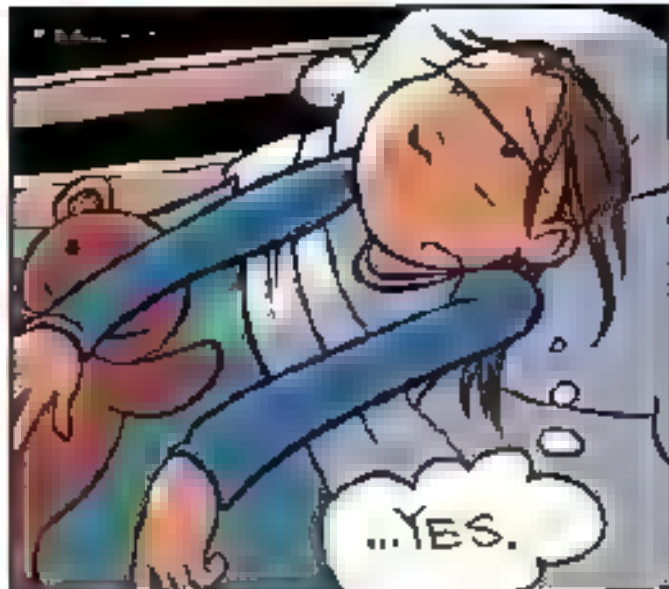
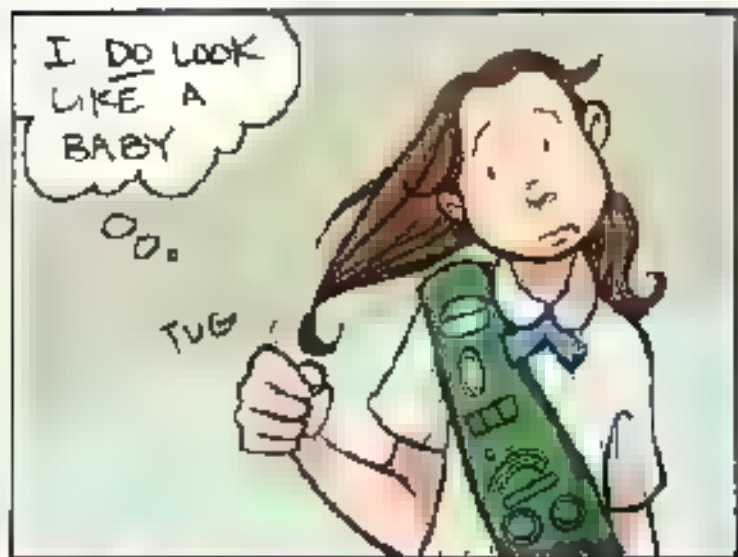


I'M NERVOUS ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS. LAST TIME WE MET WAS WHEN I HAD MY ACCIDENT

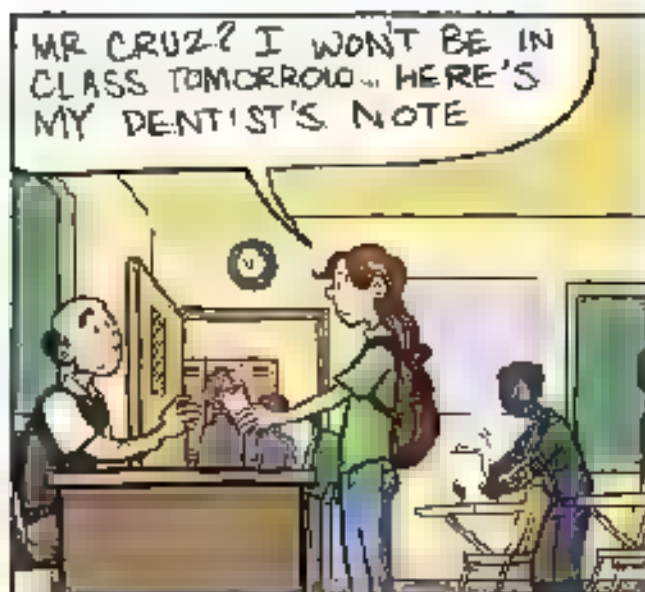


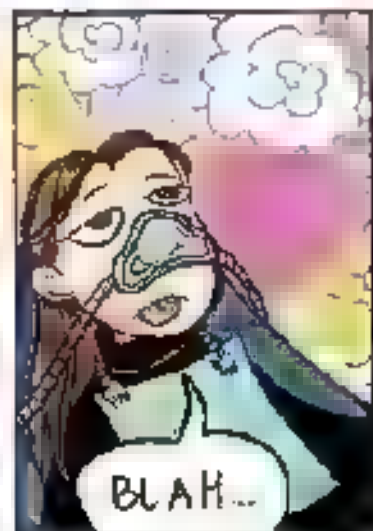
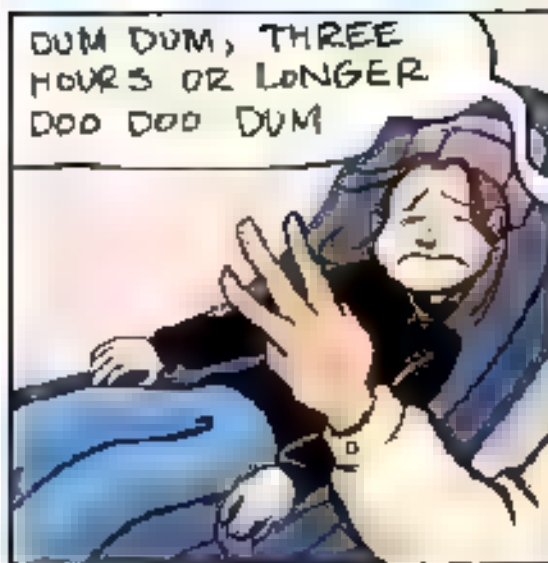












HERE, YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE  
RADIO WHILE WE WORK



After that it was  
sort of peaceful

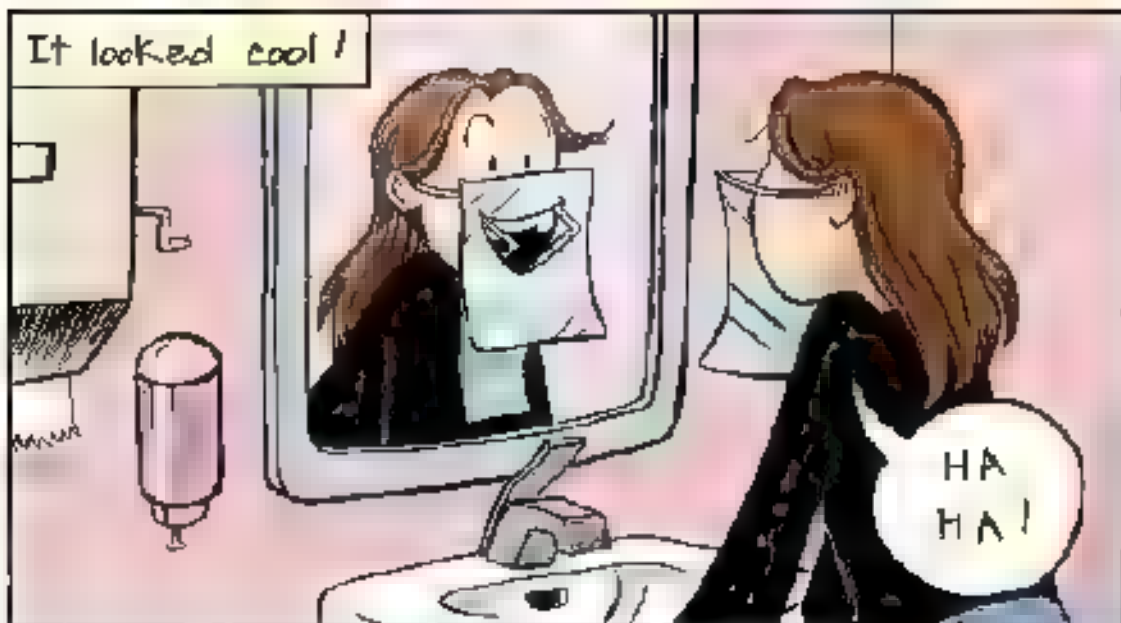


I got up once during the  
surgery to use the bathroom.

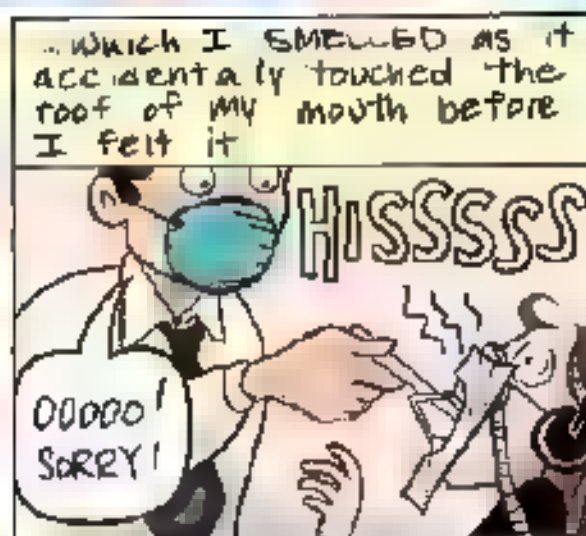
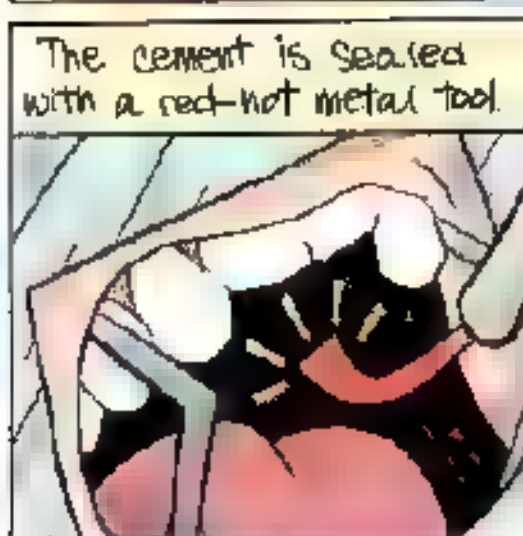
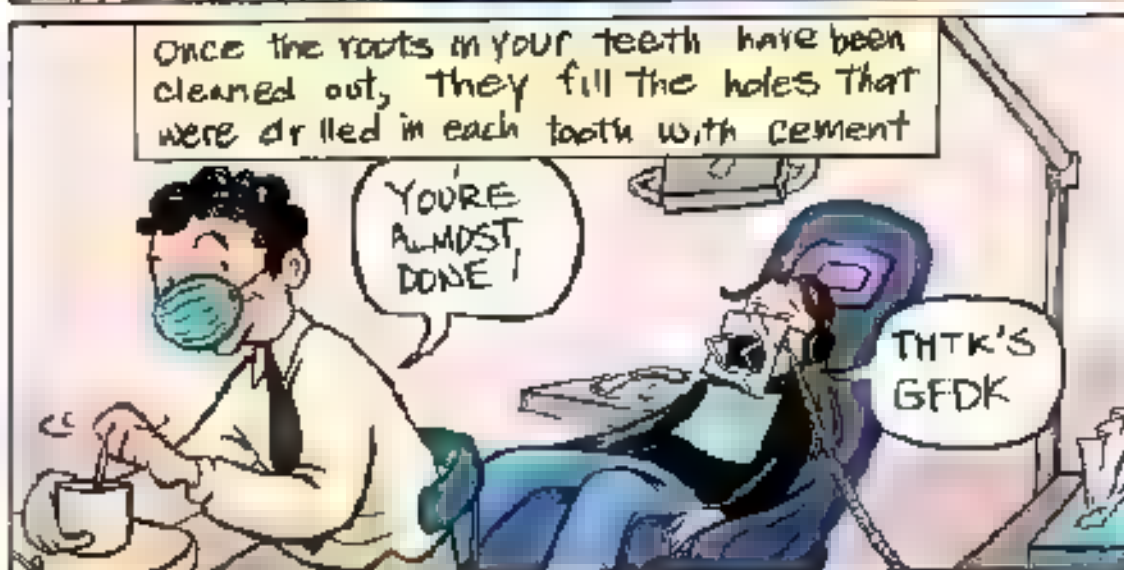


There were clamps, a  
plastic guard, and gauze  
in and around my mouth

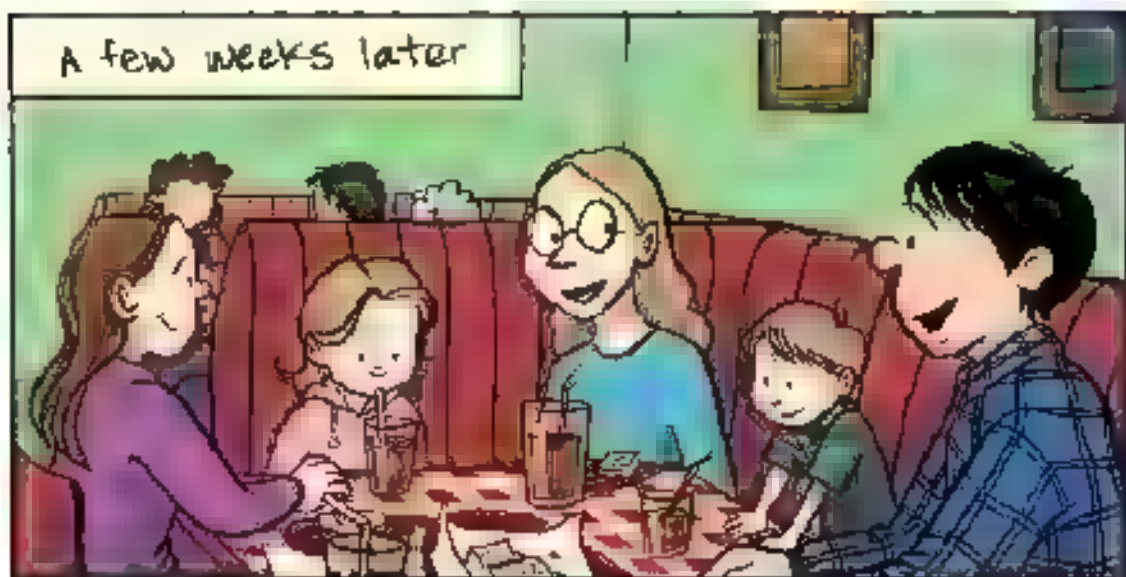
It looked cool!

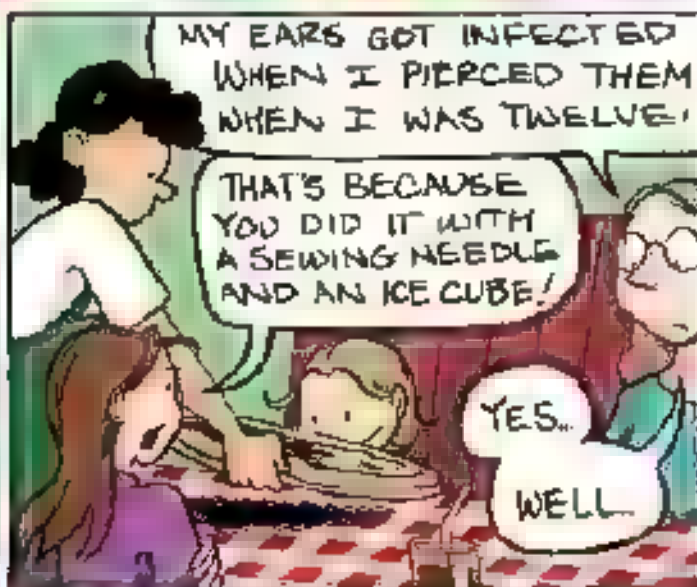


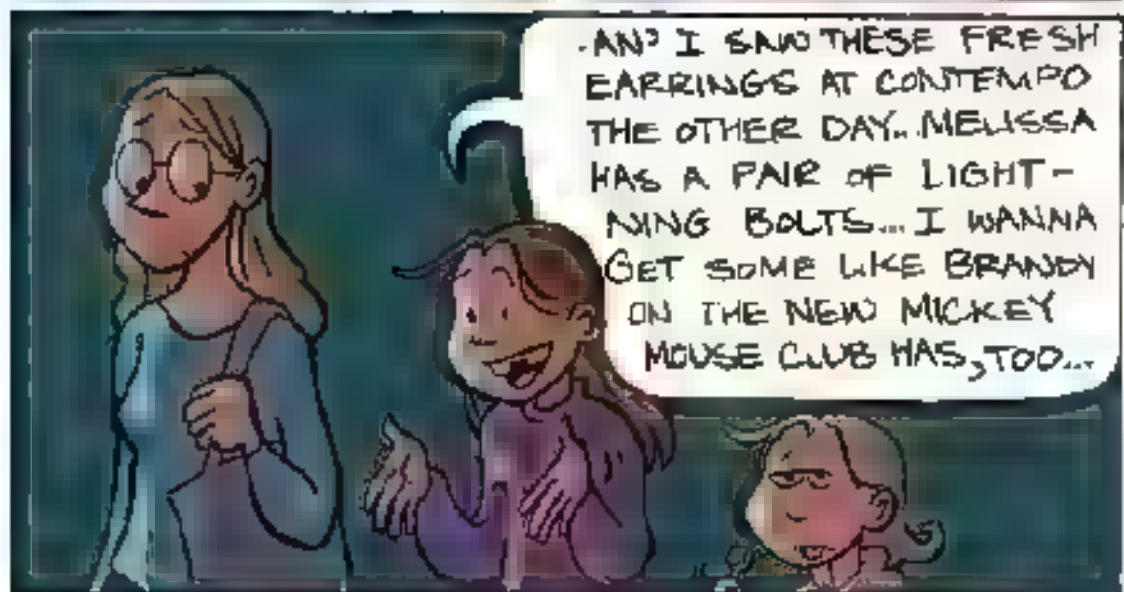
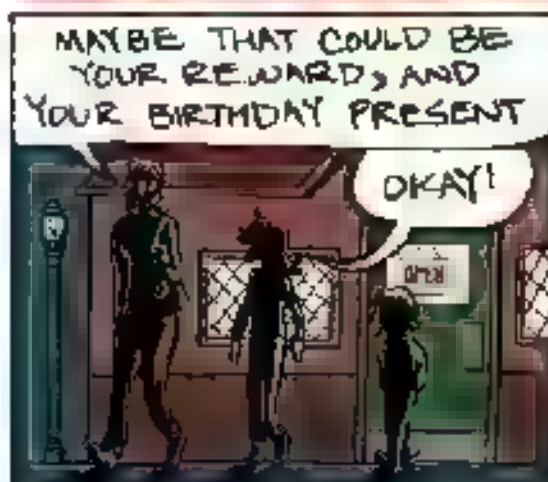




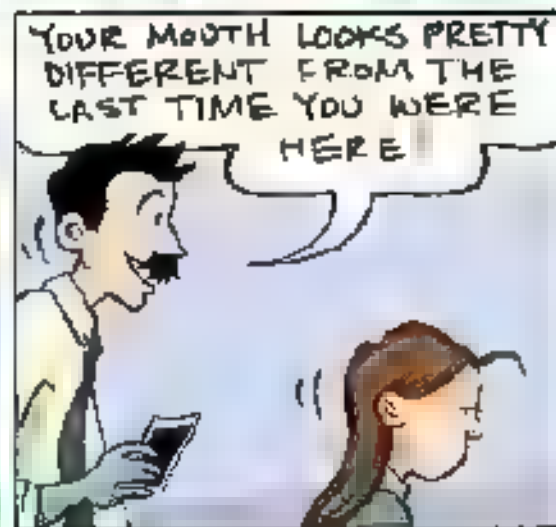














SURE FIXING YOUR OVER  
BITE WAS THE WHOLE  
POINT TO BEGIN WITH



BUT BUT I'M GONNA  
LOOK LIKE A NERD  
WITH HEADGEAR ON!



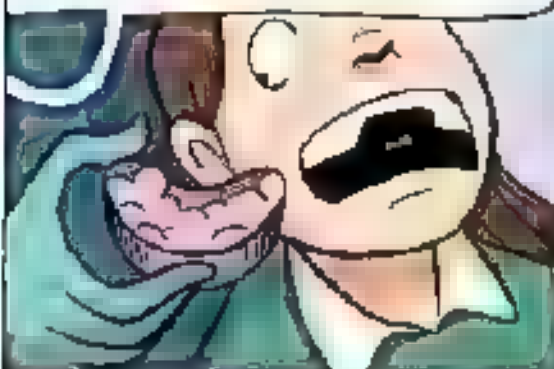
YOU ONLY NEED  
TO WEAR IT  
AT NIGHT!



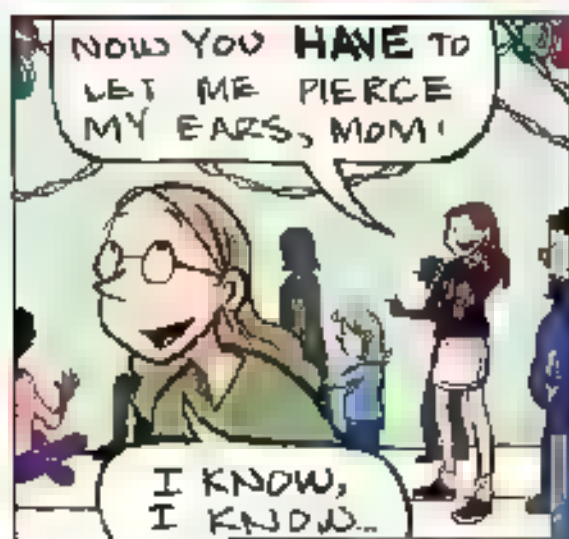
JAMIE, ARE YOU  
READY WITH THAT?



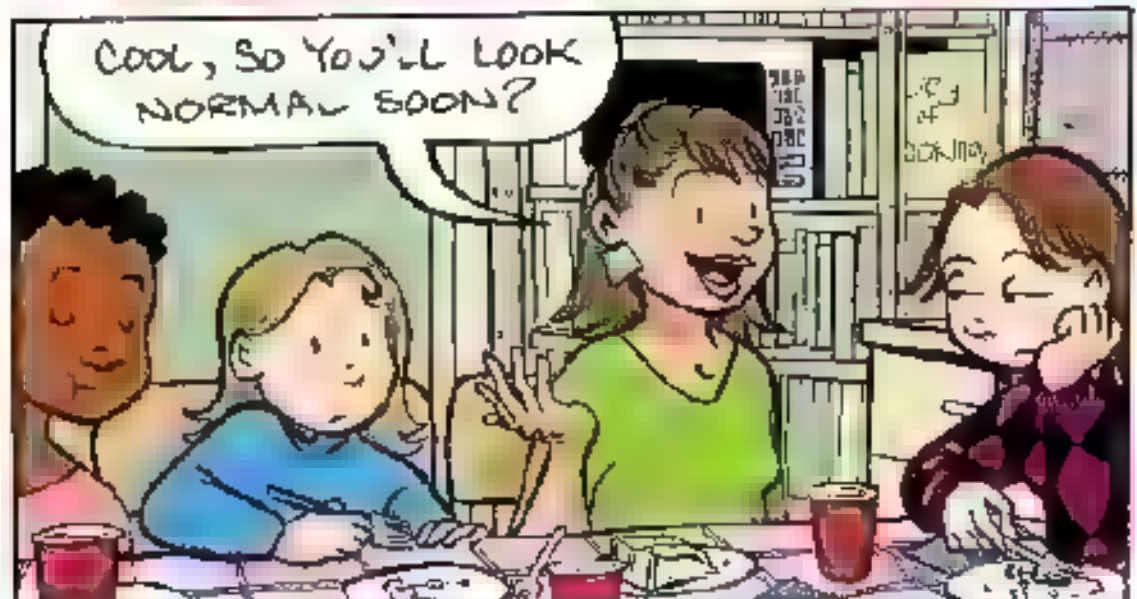
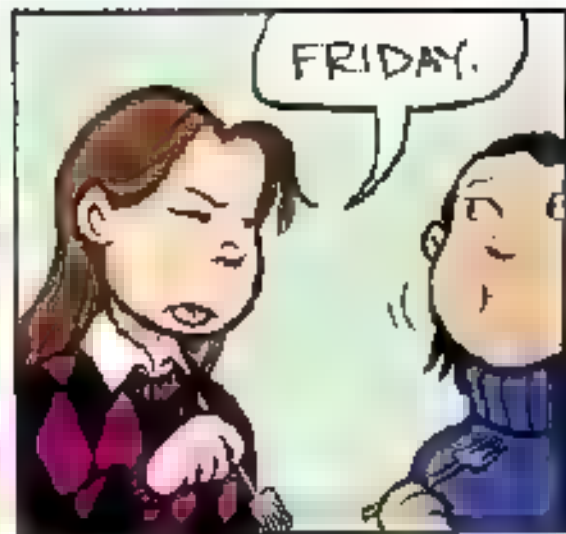
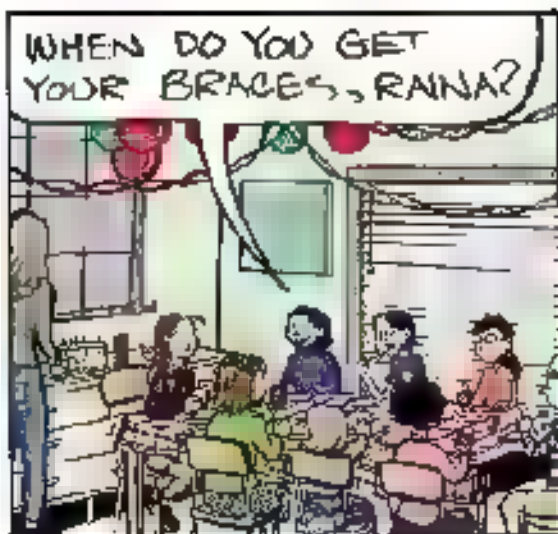
WE'RE MAKING A MOLD  
OF YOUR MOUTH. OPEN UP.  
THIS MIGHT FEEL A  
LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE...

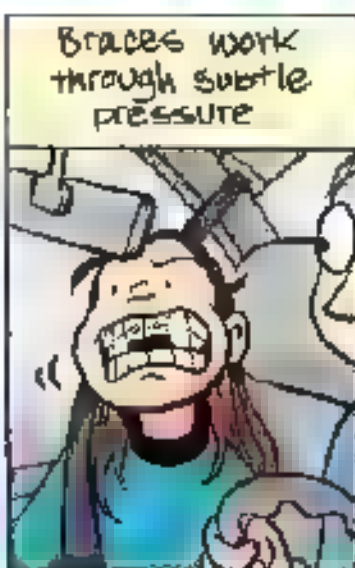






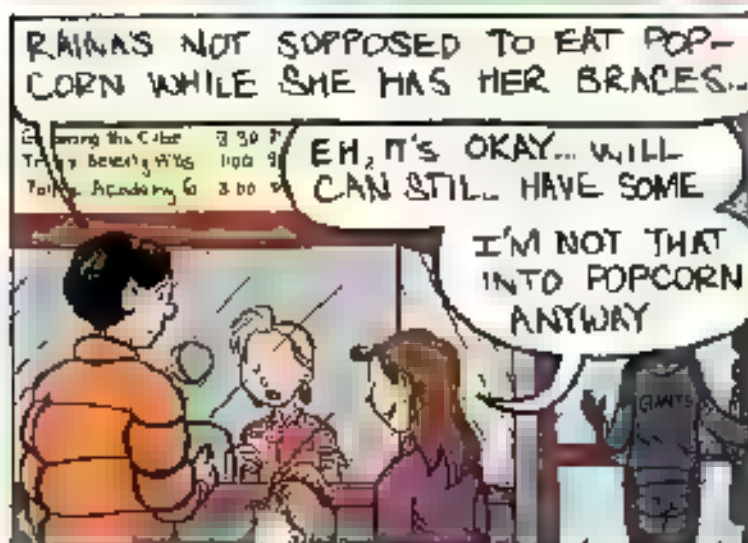


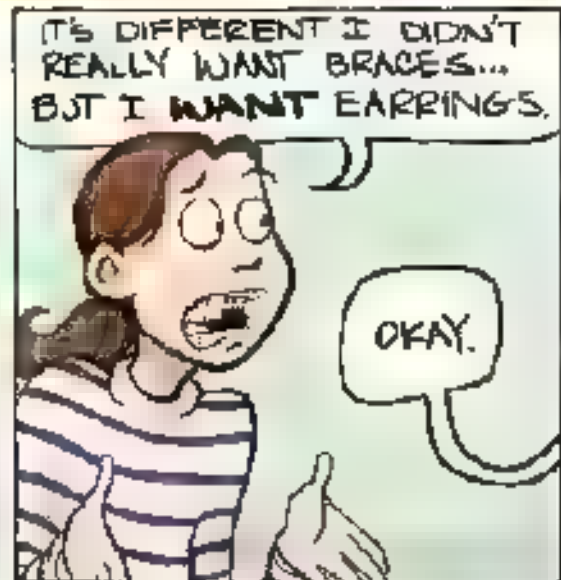
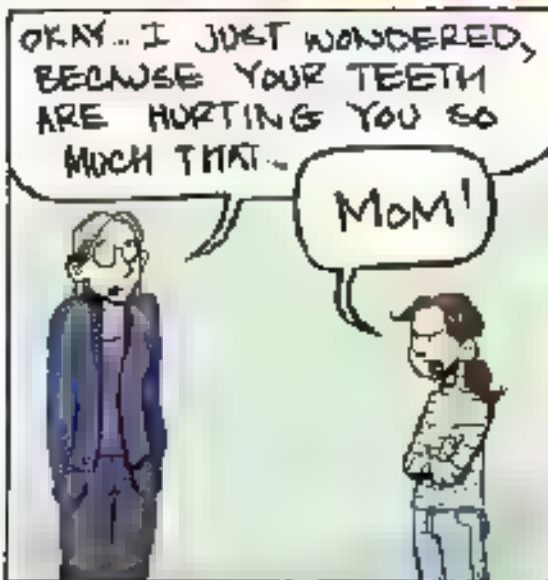






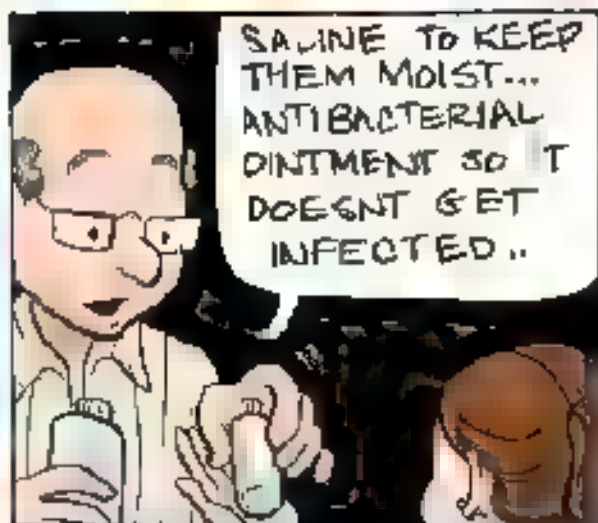


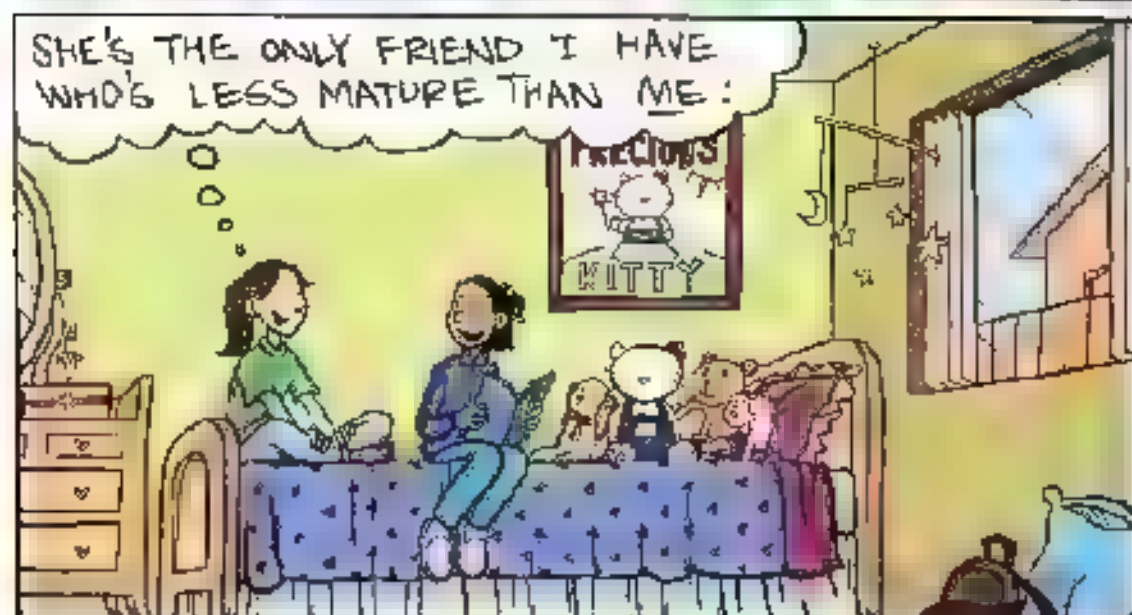
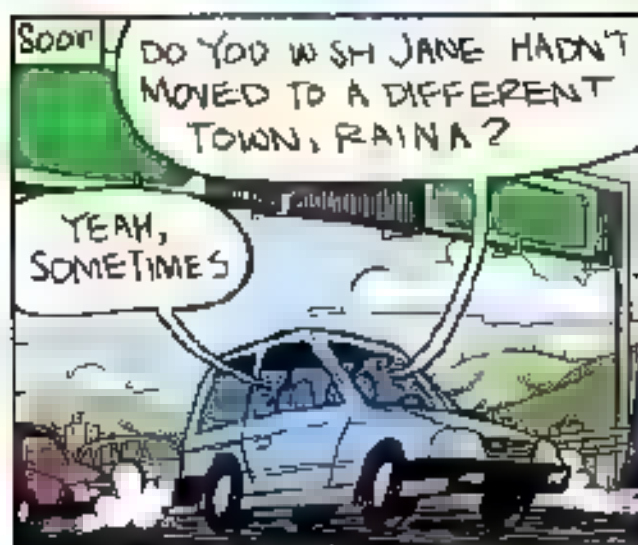
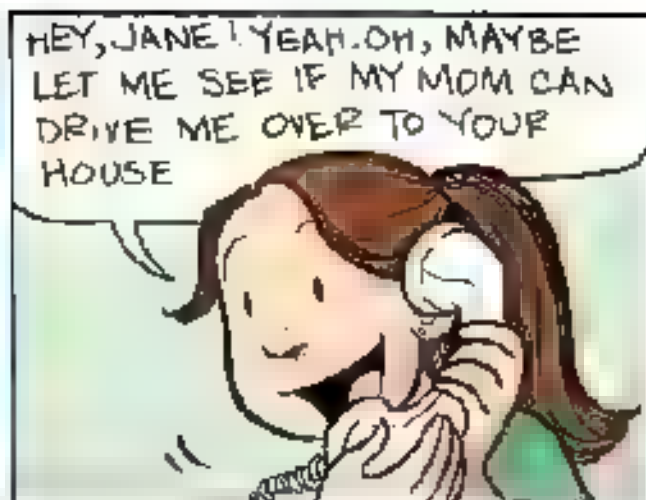


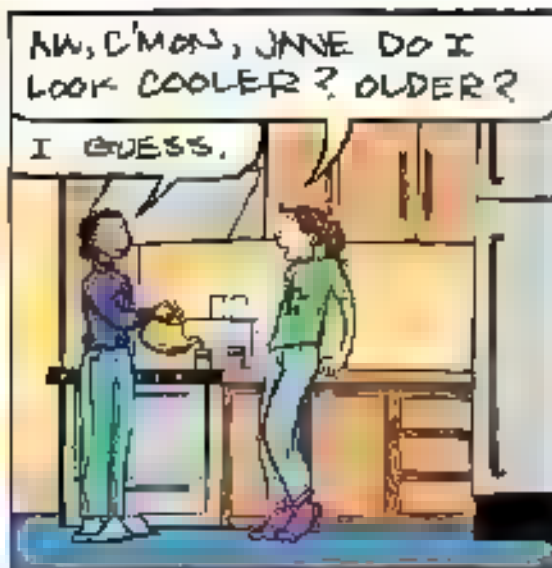




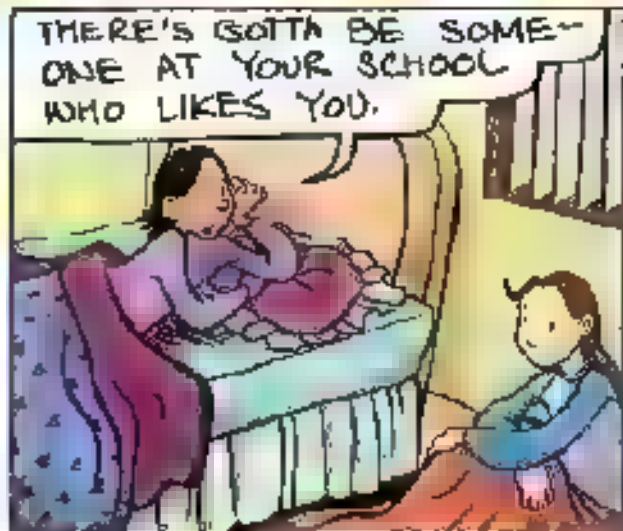












# CHAPTER THREE

On the last day of school,  
we all got our yearbooks.

IS GN MY YEAR  
BOOK, NICOLE?

SURE.

Hee Hee



Have a nice  
summer-Girl!  
Vampire-Nicole

Ra ra!  
Summer was  
way funnier with  
you! - Stel

See you  
next year!  
K. T. C  
Vera

Donna -  
you can  
go have a  
summer  
party

Rain  
Have a  
great summer!

Have a great summer!  
Have a great summer!

That summer was pretty normal, as summers go



Girl Scout camp



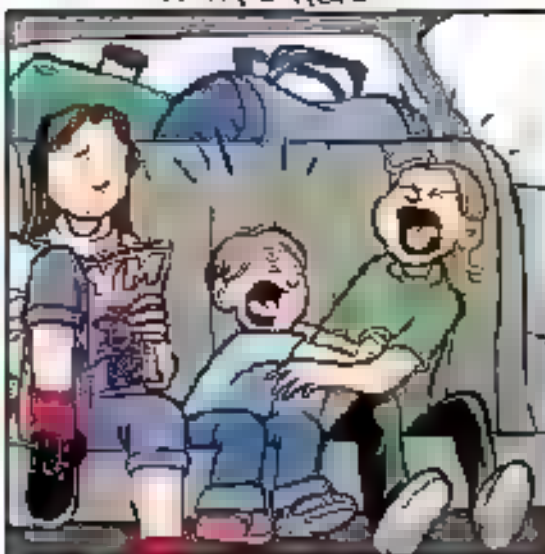
Grandma



Nintendo



Fog



Car trips

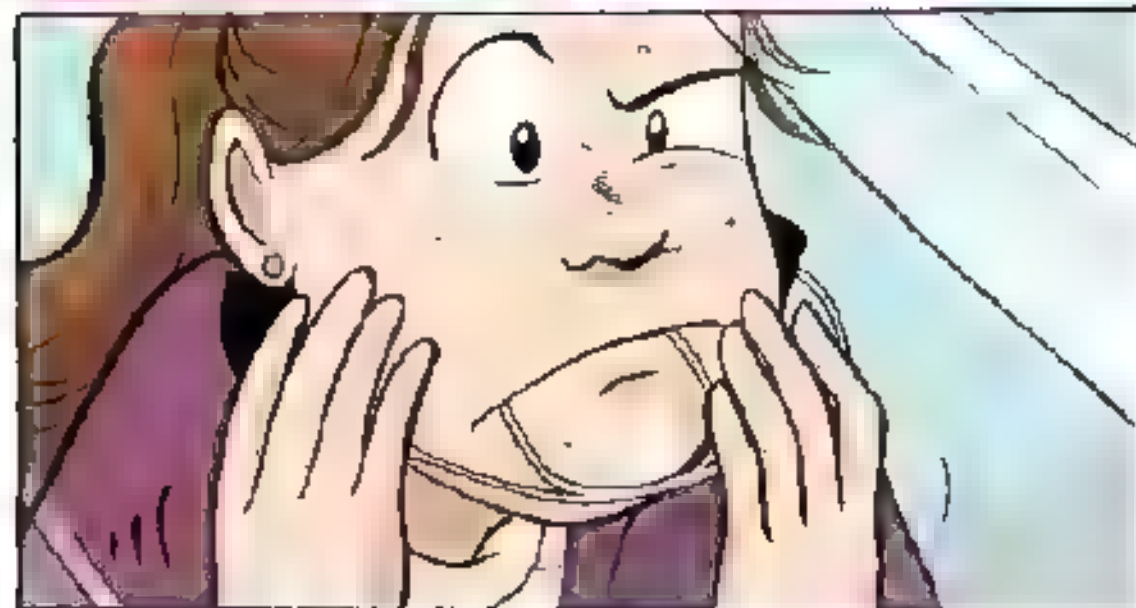


Orthodontist











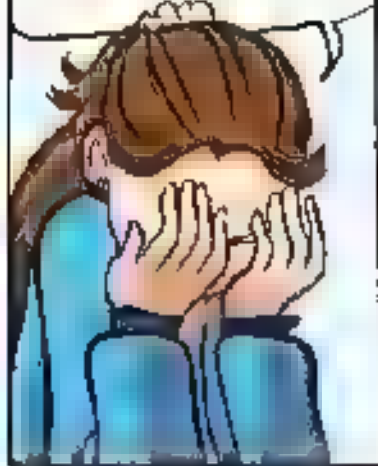
GREAT THE FIRST DAY OF SEVENTH GRADE AND I'M TOTALLY BREAKING OUT



MELISSA I'VE TURNED INTO A BRACE-FACE AND A ZIT-FACE! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!



EVERYONE'S GONNA NOTICE!

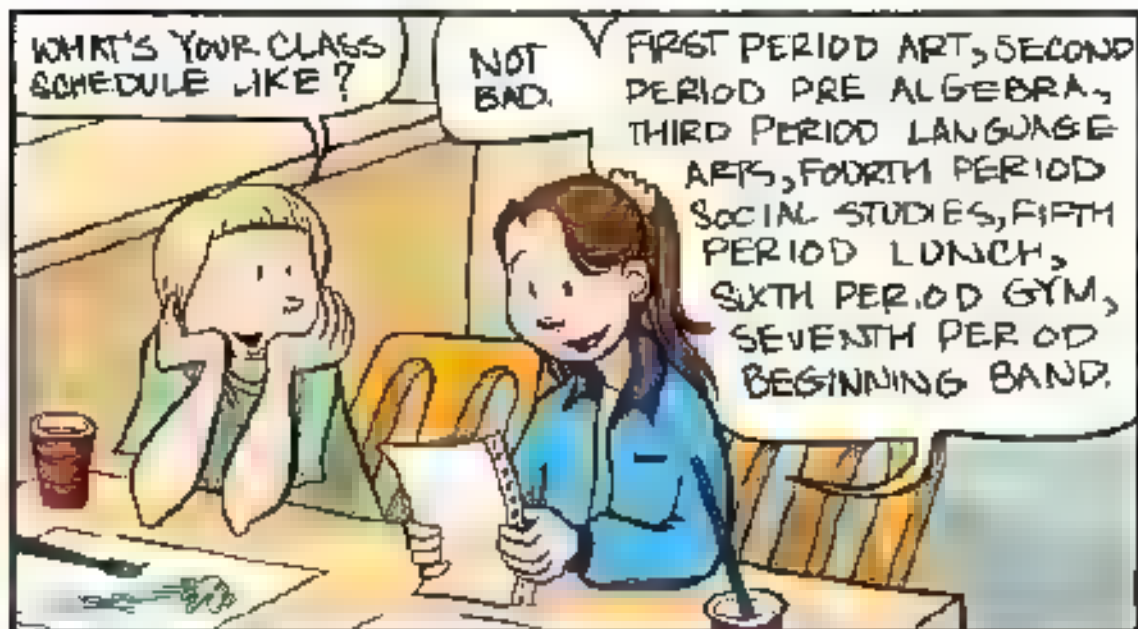


LOOKIT ALL THESE LITTLE KIDS AAAA! TINY-TOT SIXTH GRADERS EVERYWHERE!!



UNLESS EVERYONE AROUND ME IS TOO SCARED TO NOTICE!!

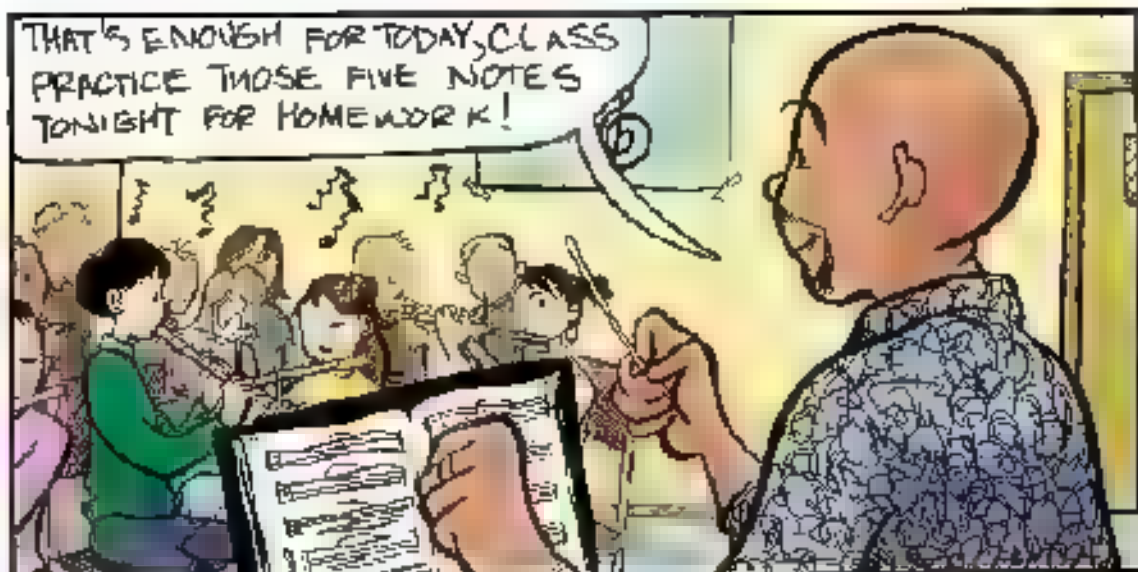


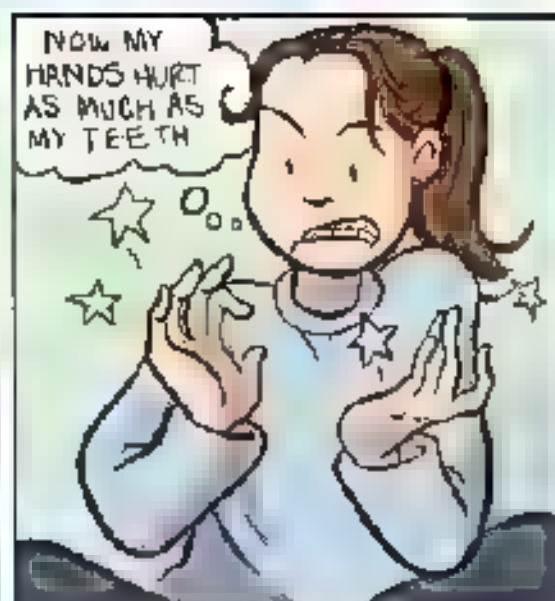
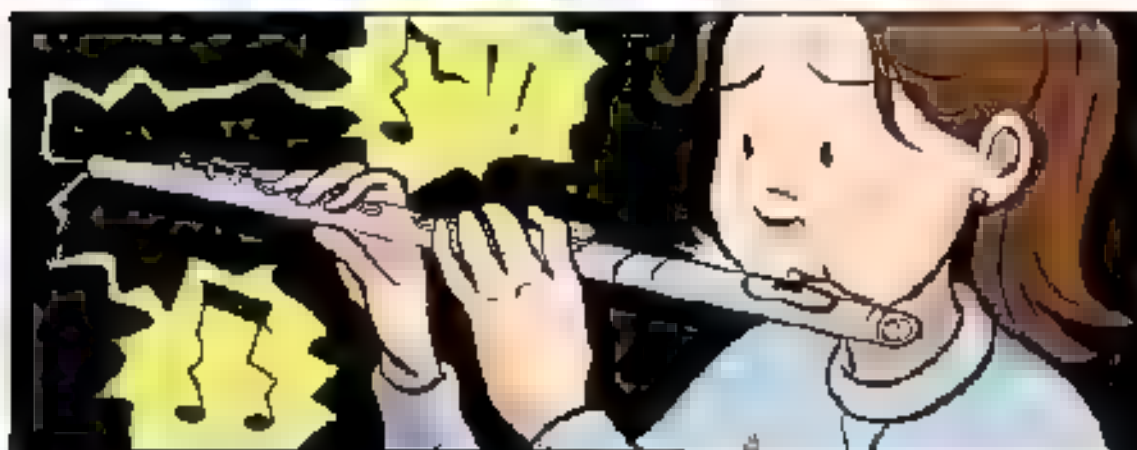
















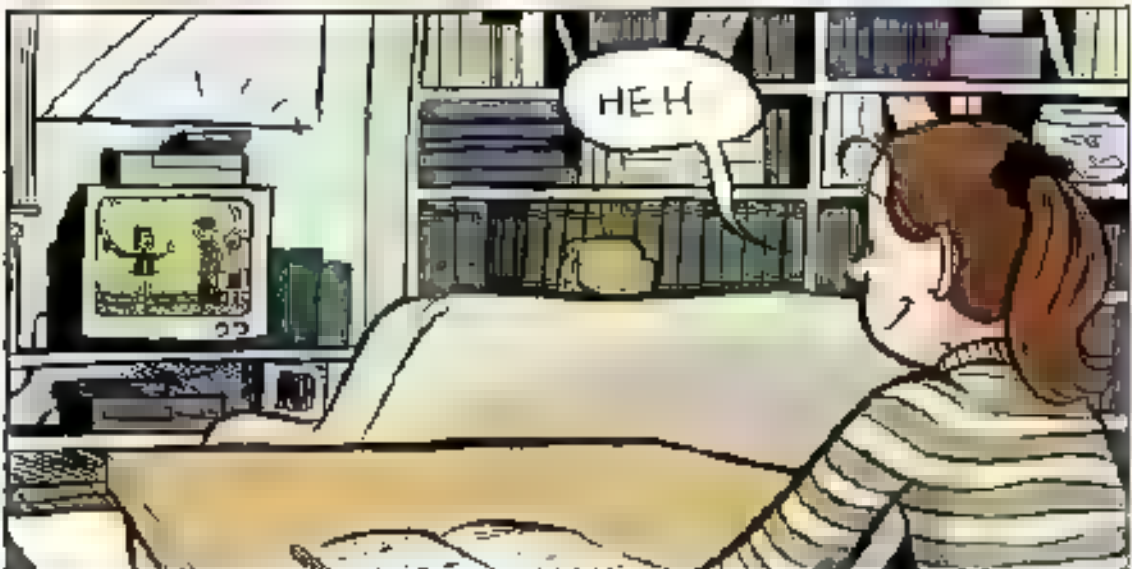
San Francisco summers are cold and foggy, but October is usually a sunny month

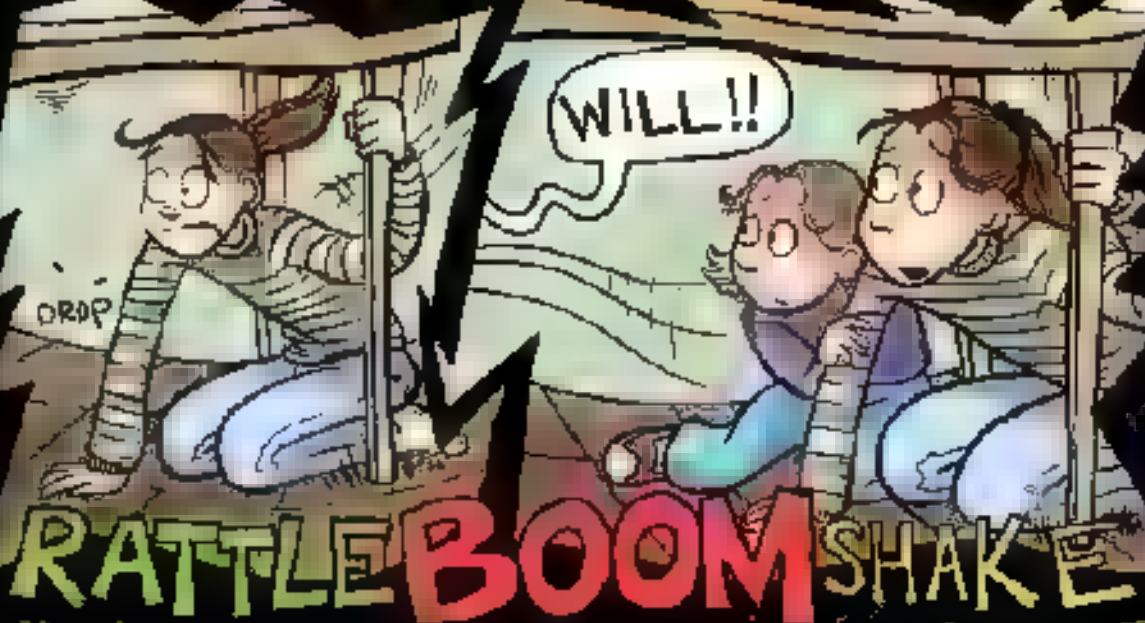
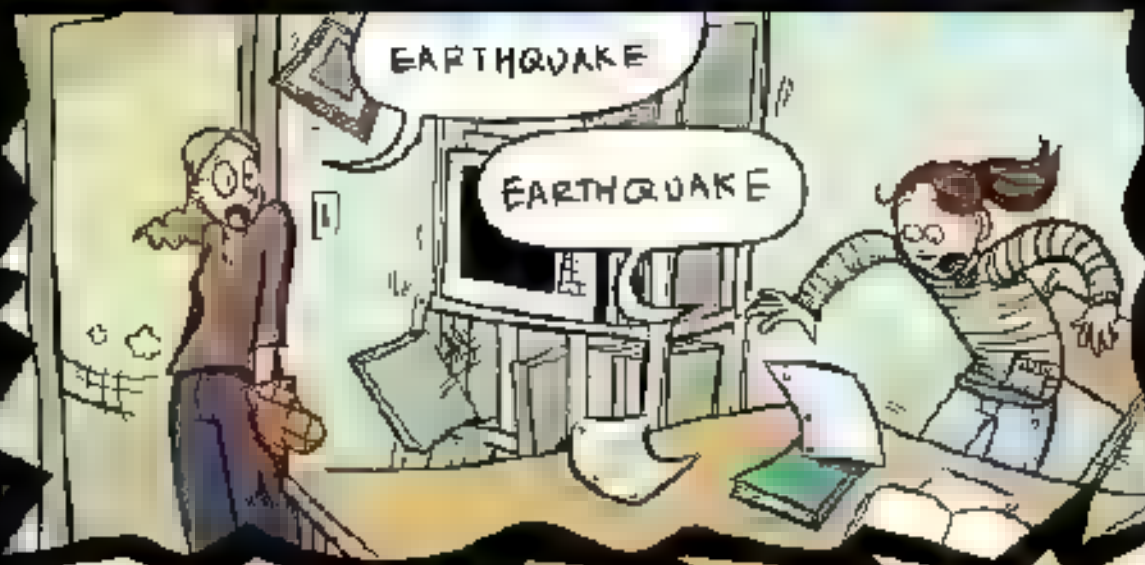


And like every year, this brought a feeling of optimism into the air



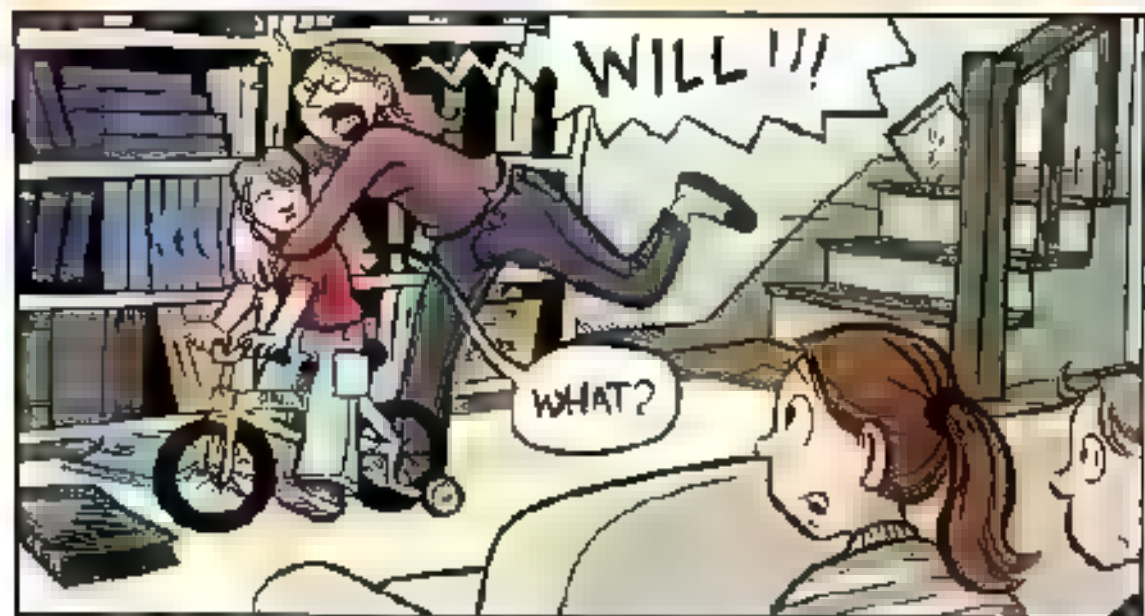
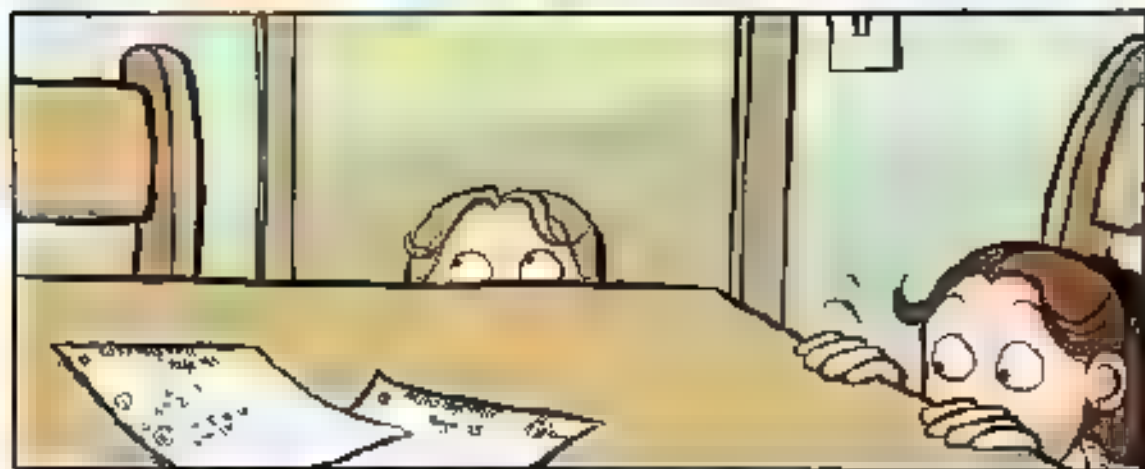
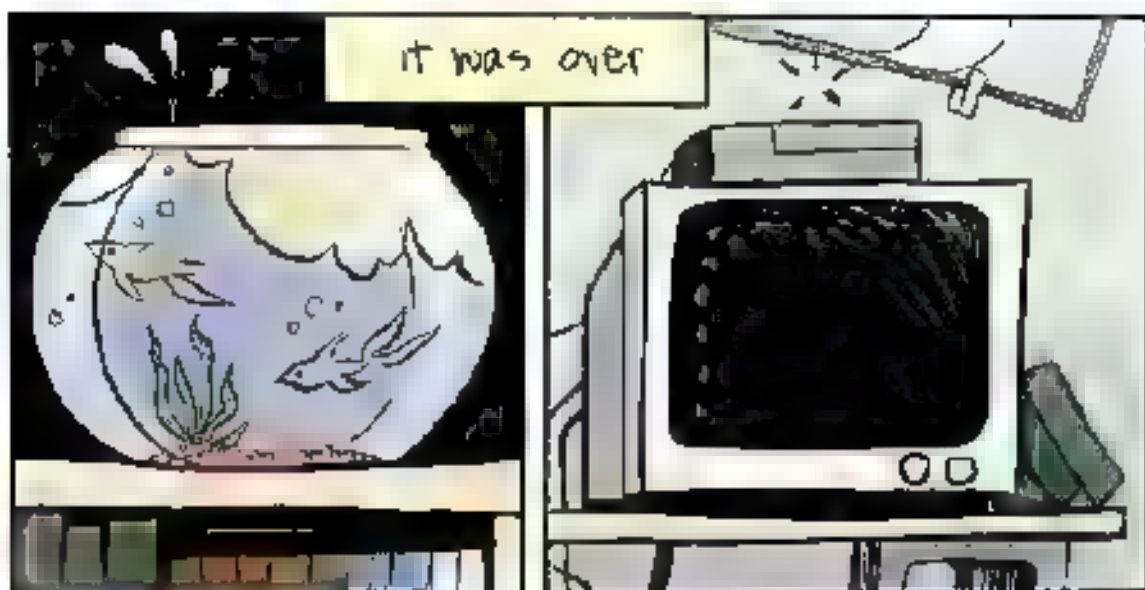
Like something good was about to happen

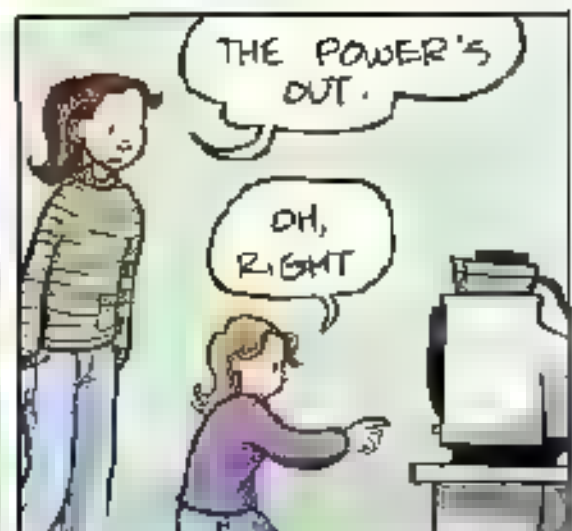




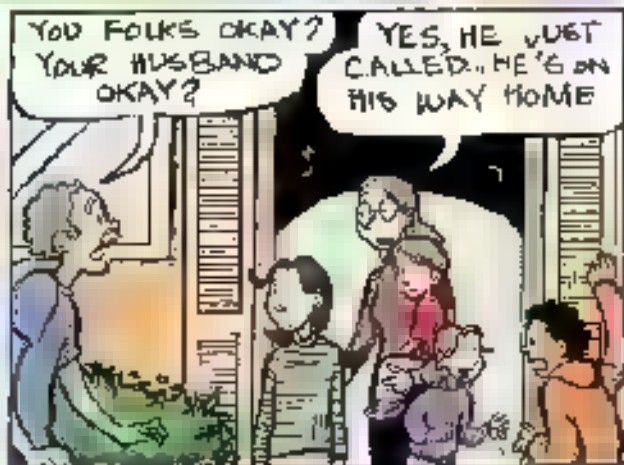


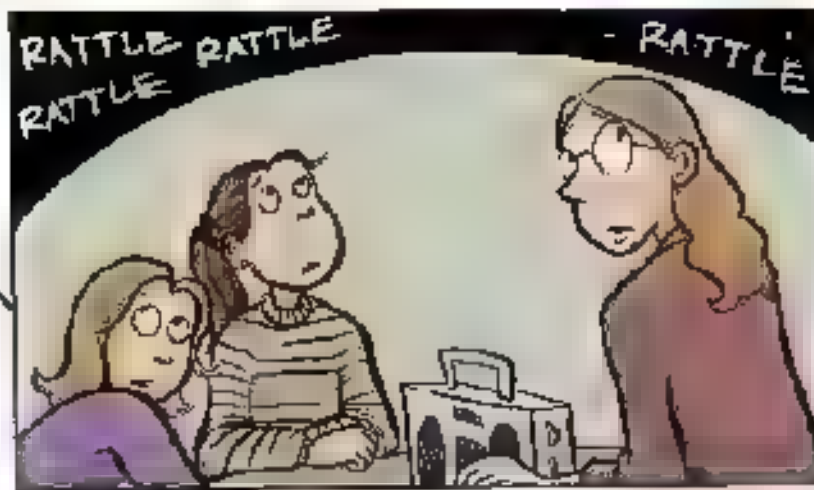
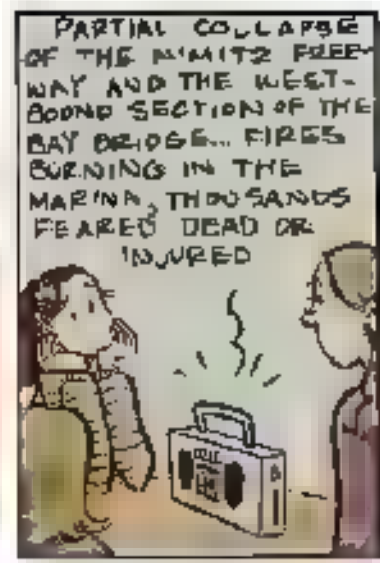


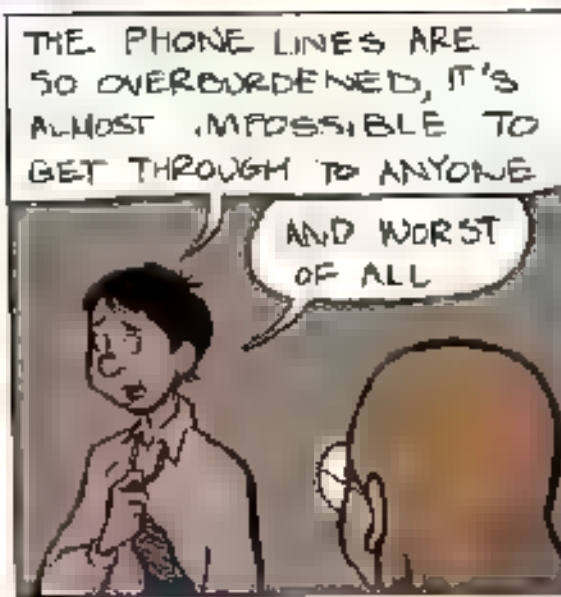
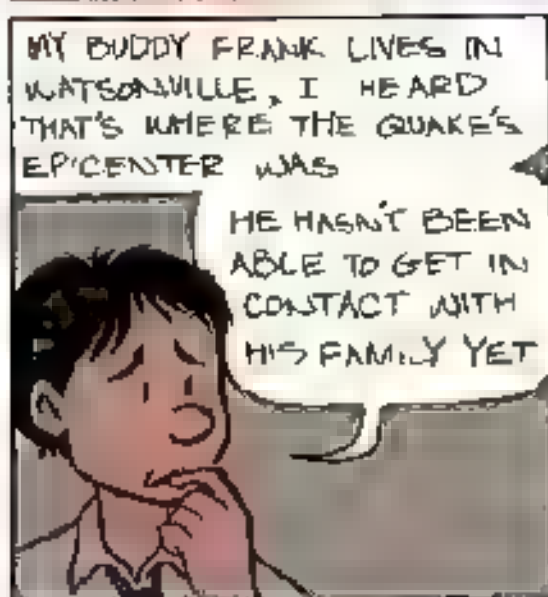
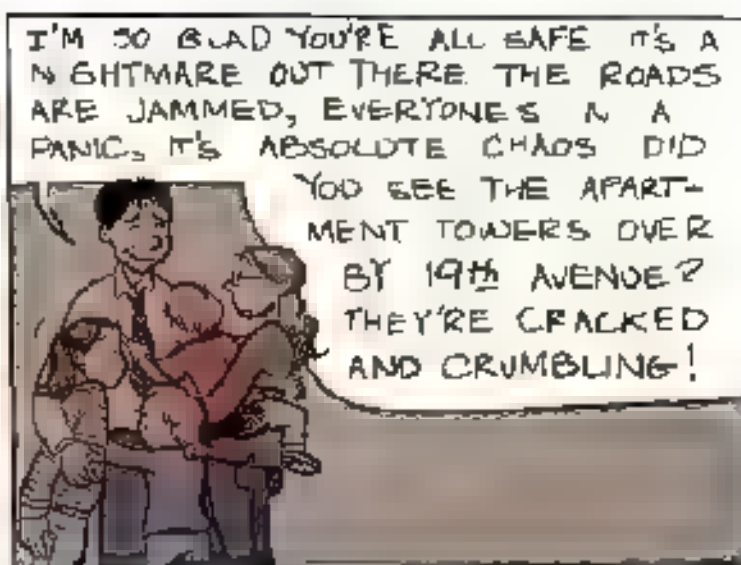








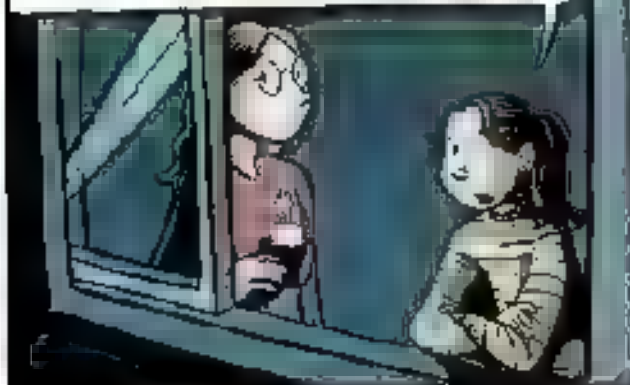








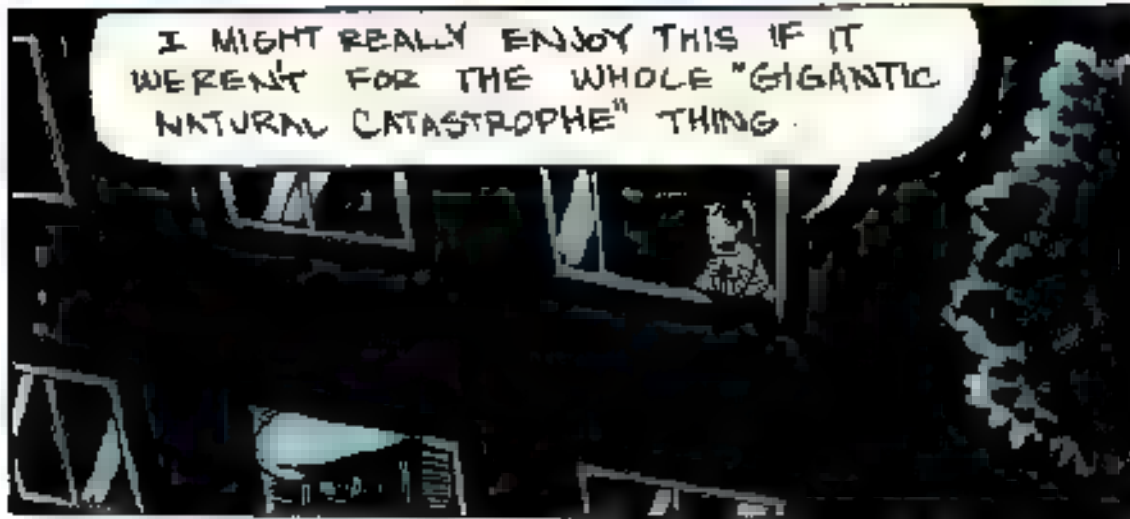
IT'S SO STRANGE TO LOOK  
OUT OVER THE CITY WHEN  
ALL THE LIGHTS ARE OUT

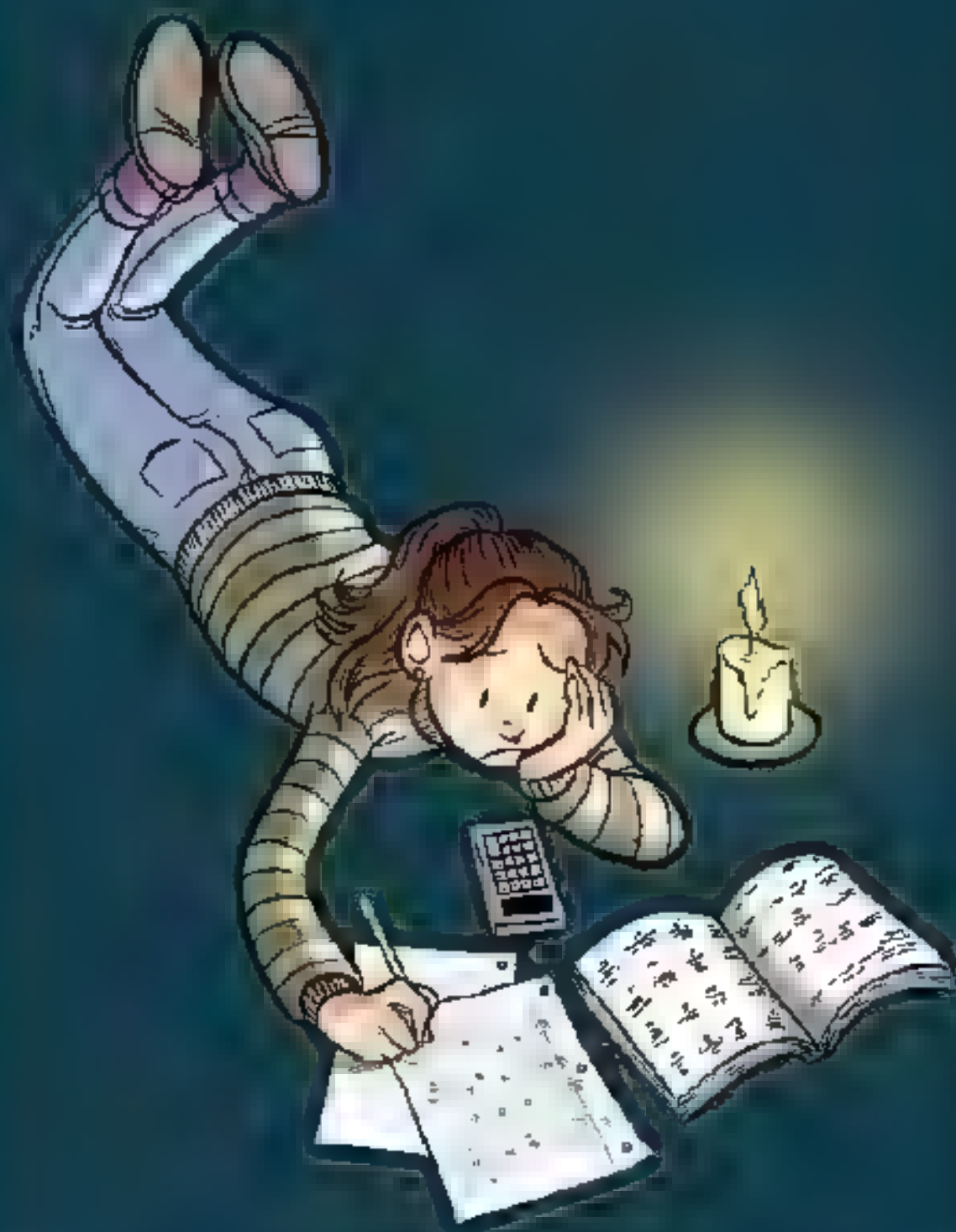


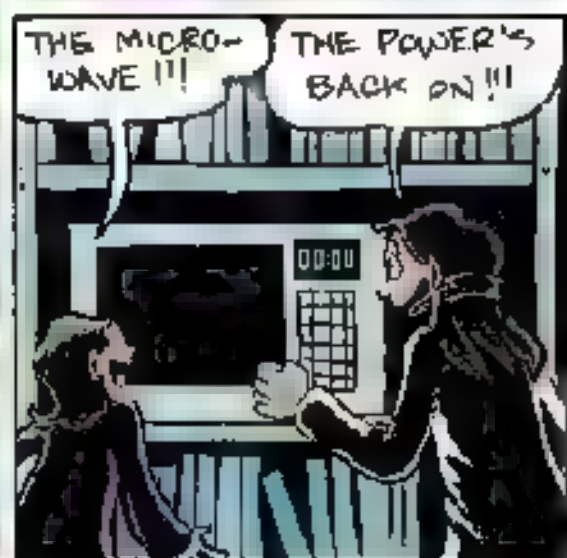
AND IT'S SUCH A NICE  
NIGHT, TOO: CLEAR,  
WARM, NO WIND, QUIET



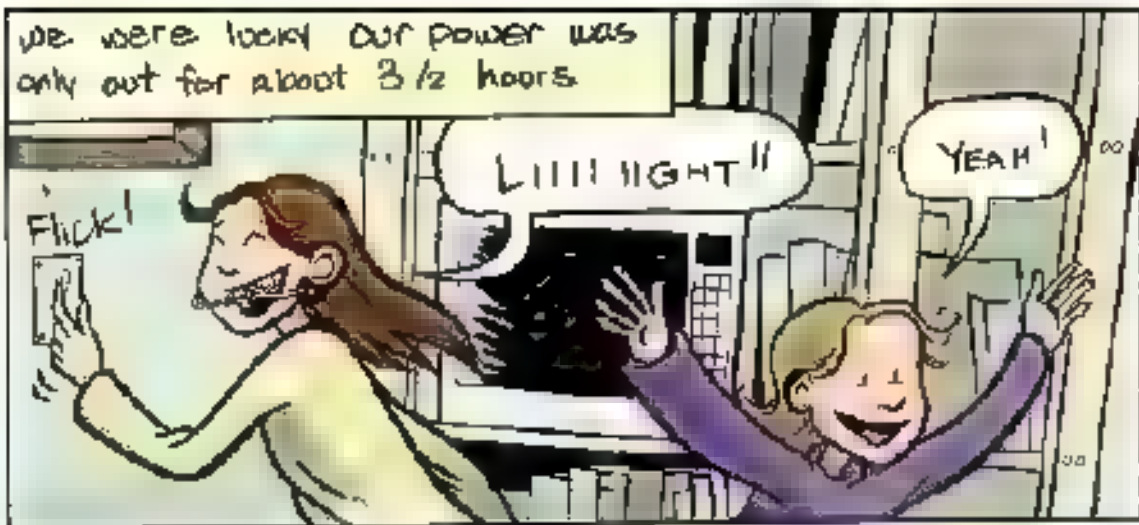
I MIGHT REALLY ENJOY THIS IF IT  
WEREN'T FOR THE WHOLE "GIGANTIC  
NATURAL CATASTROPHE" THING.

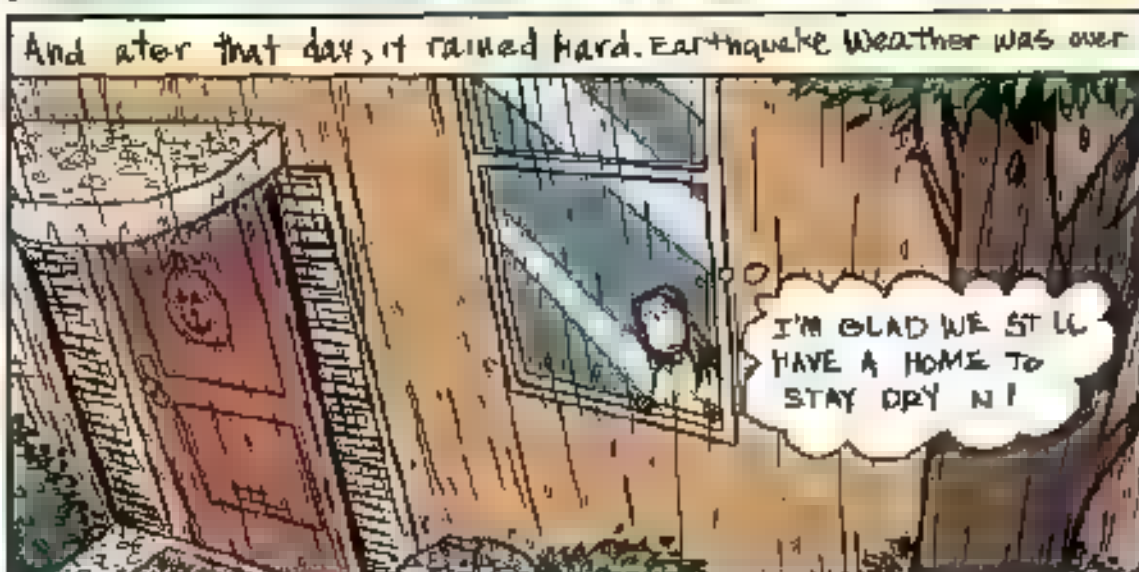
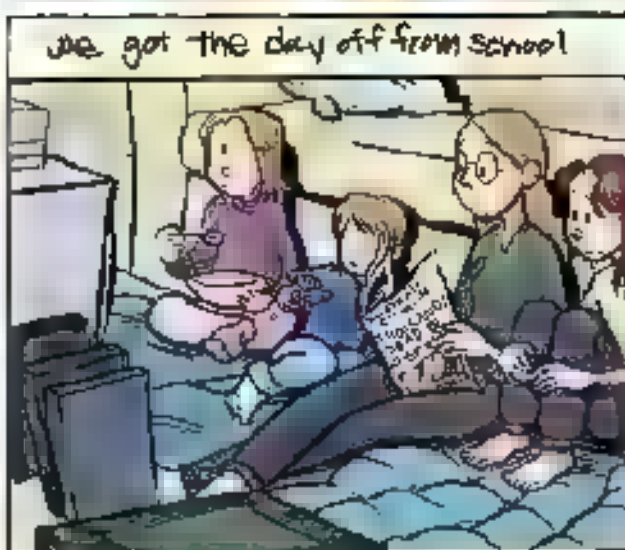
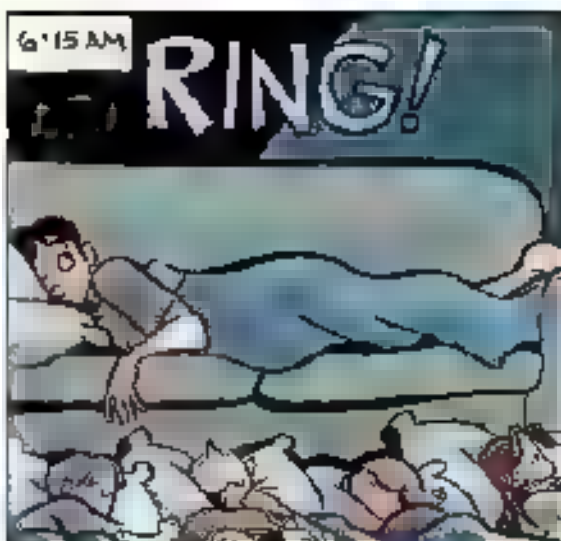


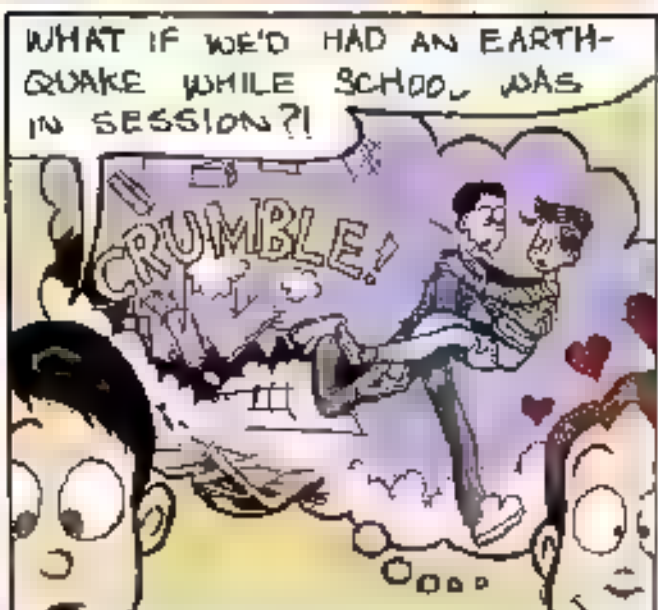
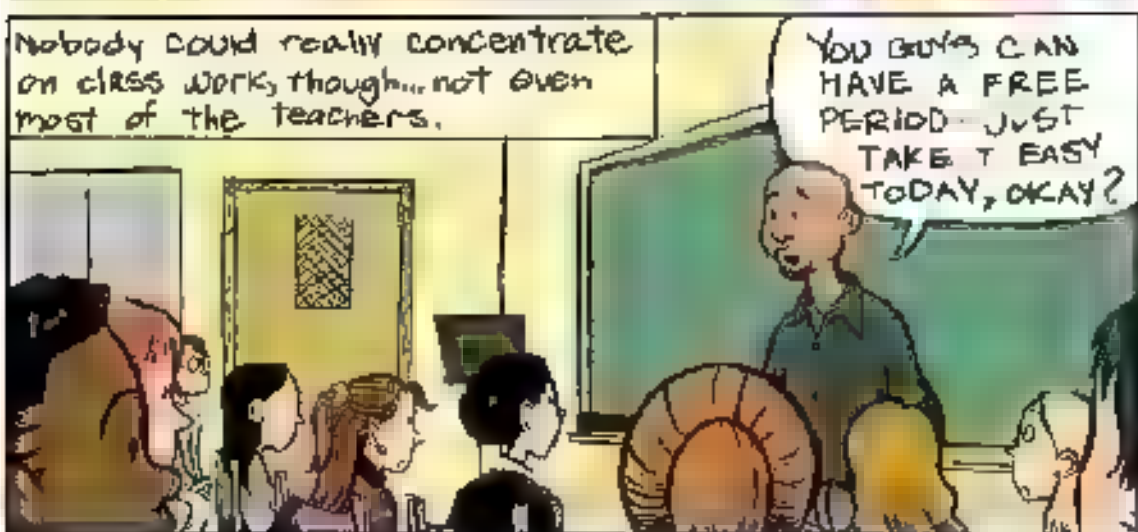














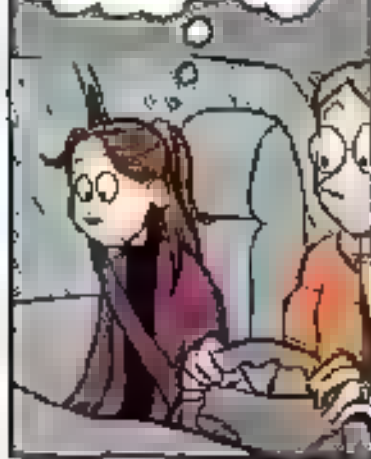
ARE YOU... DOING ANYTHING  
AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?



MY MOM'S PICKING ME UP I HAVE  
AN ORTHODONTIST'S APPOINTMENT



WAS HE TRYING TO  
ASK ME OUT?!



HE WAS TOTALLY  
TRYING TO ASK  
ME OUT



GOOD THING DR DRAGONI'S  
OFFICE DIDN'T FALL DOWN  
IN THE EARTHQUAKE, HUH?



YEAH, GOOD  
THING



IT'S BEEN A PRETTY STRANGE YEAR FOR YOU, HASN'T IT.

YEAH



YOU KNOCKED OUT YOUR TWO FRONT TEETH, YOU GOT BRACES, YOU GOT YOUR EARS PIERCED...



I SURVIVED A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE.



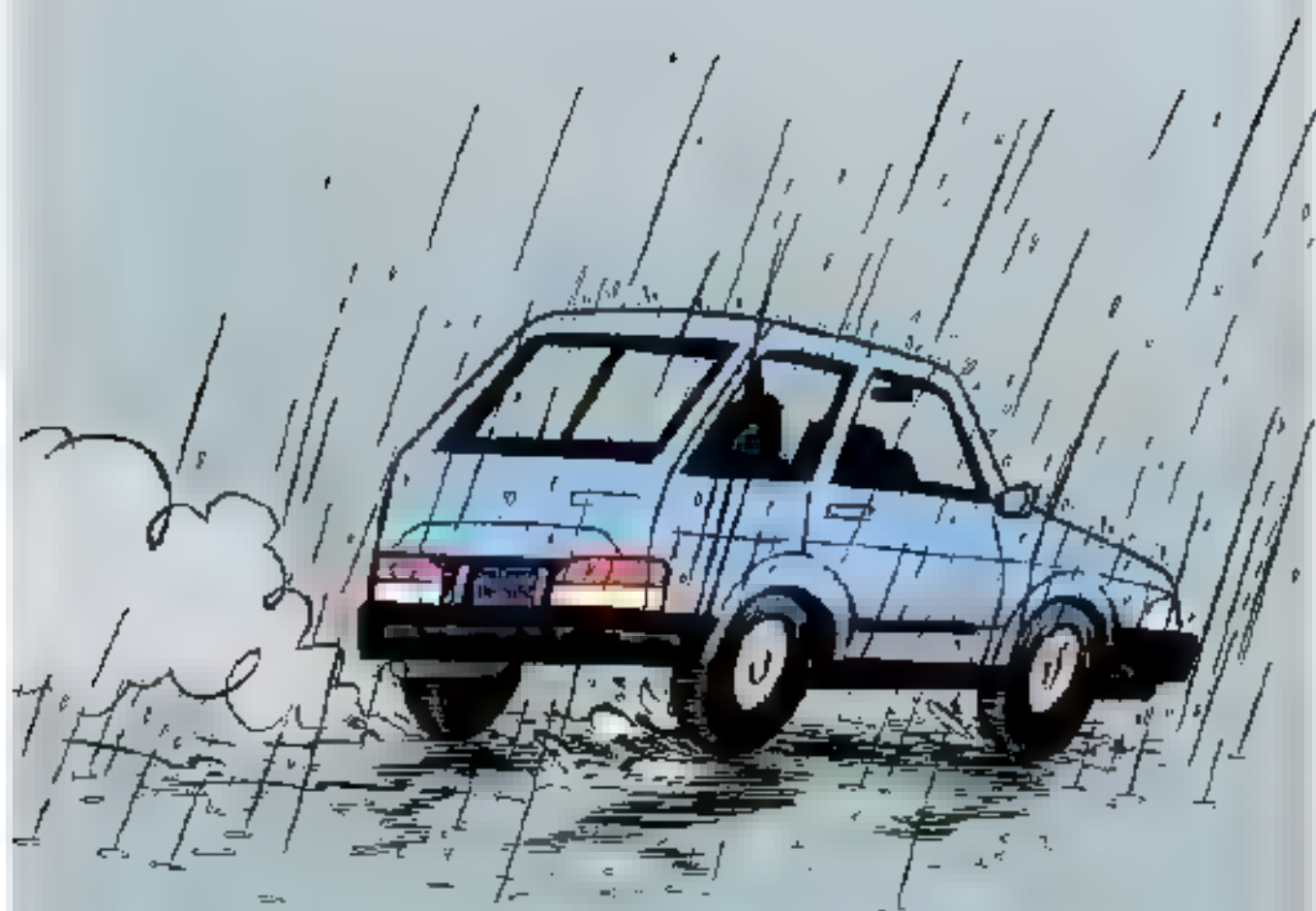
I GUESS IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS...



LOSING A COUPLE OF TEETH ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD!

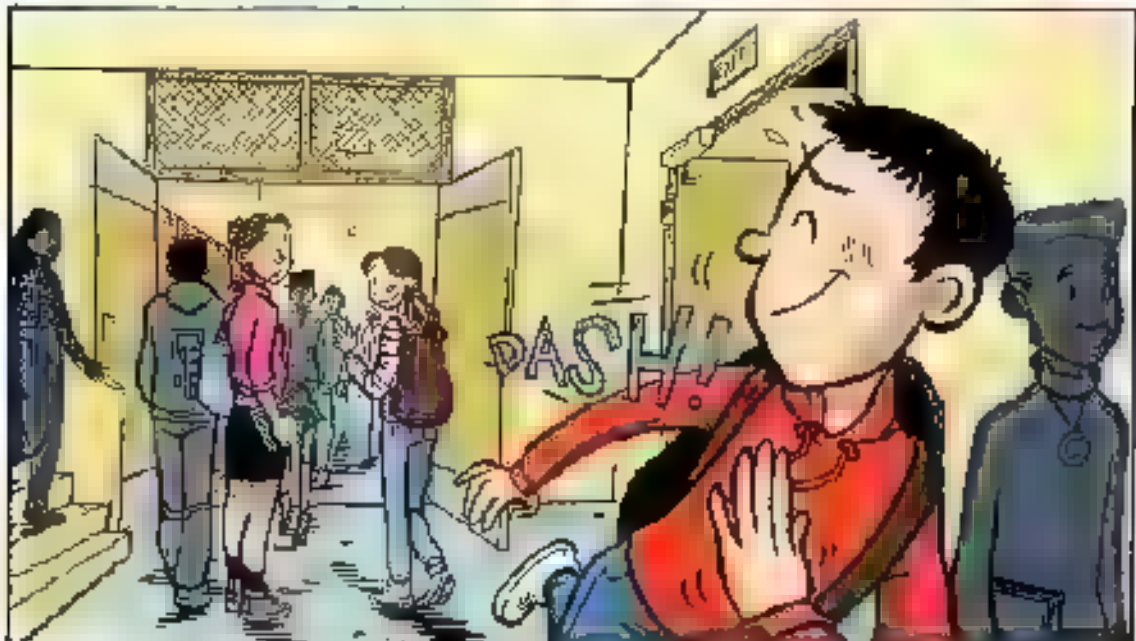
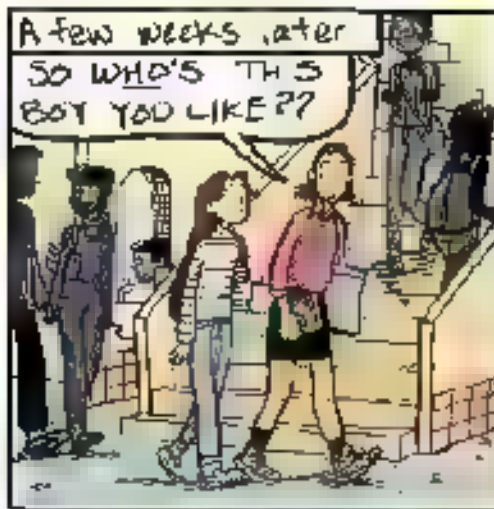


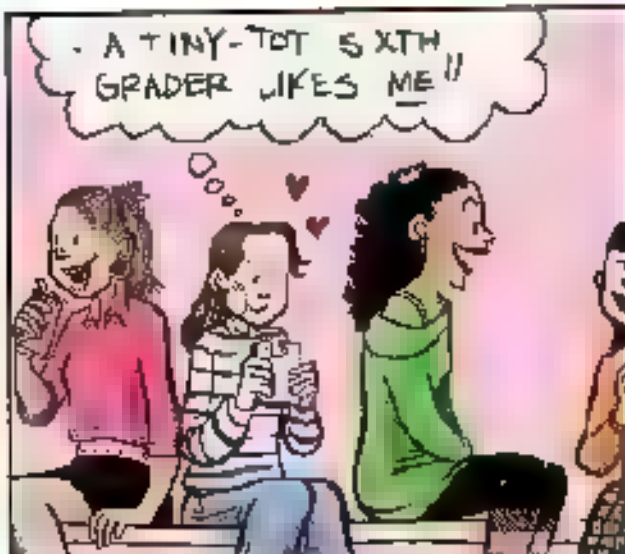
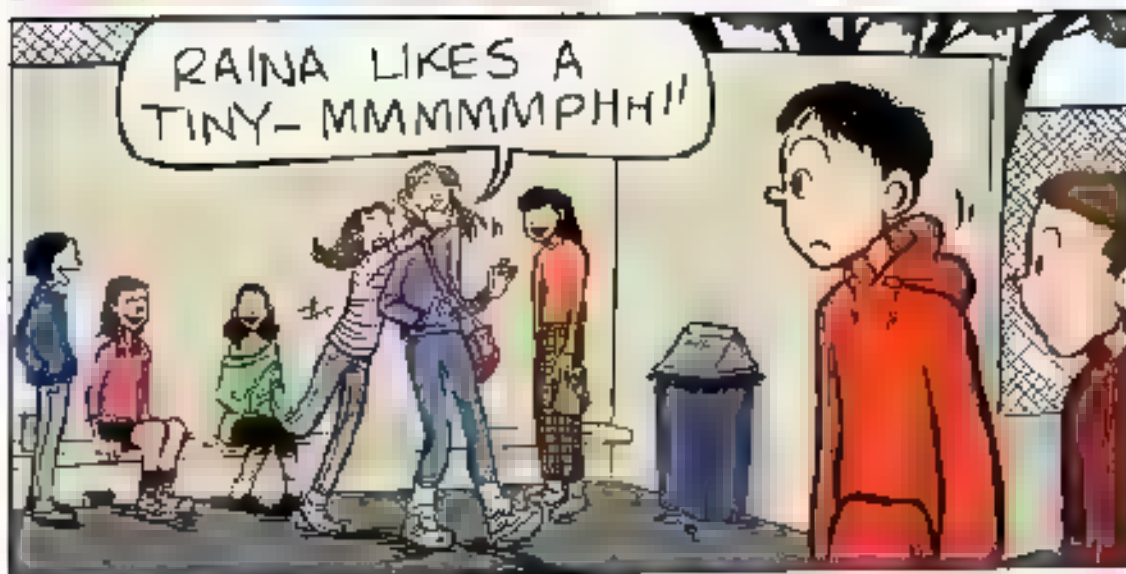
SIGH





## CHAPTER FOUR





A few days before Thanksgiving  
so, the bad news is, your  
teeth aren't really respon-  
ding to the treatment



we've tried to move the  
two front teeth back  
down into place  
with the braces



but after several months,  
it just doesn't seem to be  
working



so am I gonna look  
like a vampire  
forever??



no... and that's the good  
news I think we should  
give you a temporary set  
of fake teeth!



it would  
first require  
a simple  
extraction

"extraction" as in,  
pulling something out?





WELL, YES EVEN THOUGH  
YOU GOT ROOT CANALS  
ON YOUR FRONT TEETH,  
THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO "TAKE"



YOUR TWO FRONT TEETH ARE  
FUSED TO YOUR JAW BONE--  
THEREFORE THEY WON'T  
MOVE WITH ORTHODONTICS



SO, WE PULL THEM BACK OUT,  
AND BUILD YOU A RETAINER  
WITH TWO PERFECT TEETH  
ATTACHED TO IT, TO FILL THE  
GAP!

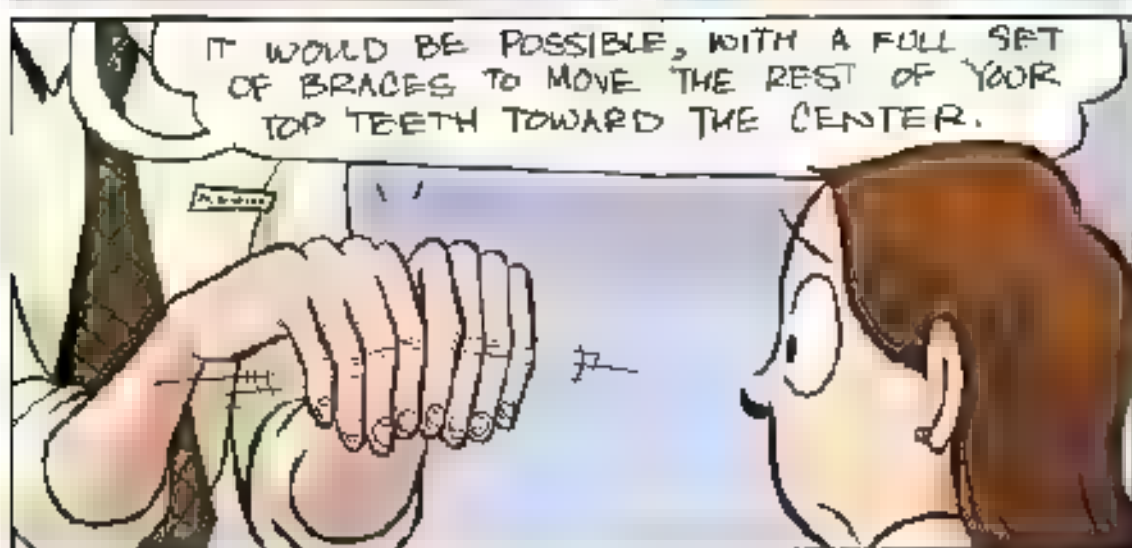


It's humiliating to let a doctor see  
you cry, but sometimes, it can't  
be helped



OH, BUT THAT'S  
NOT ALL





+ made sense to wait until Winter Break to pull out my teeth then, at least, I wouldn't miss any school.



Still, that meant I had weeks and weeks to worry about it





I EVEN WORKED DURING ART CLASS, WHICH WAS USUALLY MY ESCAPE FROM REALITY.



HEY, MY DAD TOOK ME TO SEE "THE LITTLE MERMAID" LAST NIGHT IT WAS REALLY GOOD



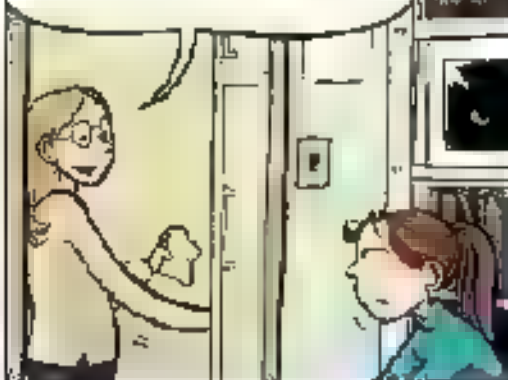
YEAH YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY GO SEE IT.



MAYBE I WILL



I'M TAKING YOUR SISTER AND HER FRIEND TO SEE "THE LITTLE MERMAID" TOMORROW, RANA. WANT TO COME WITH US?

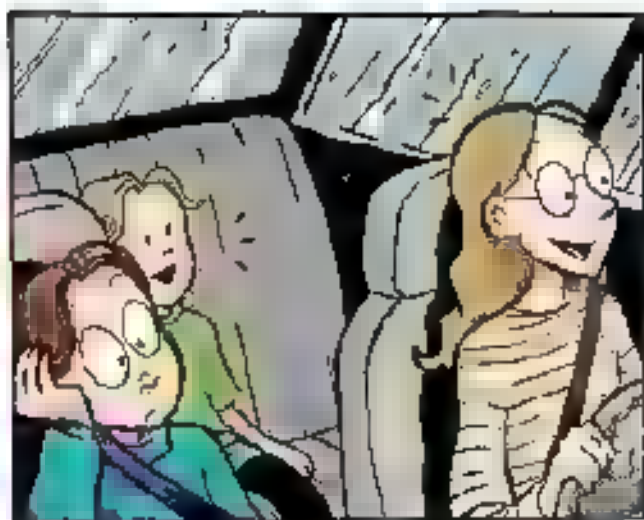


I GUESS.

BUT ONLY CAUSE EMILY TOLD ME IT WAS GOOD.







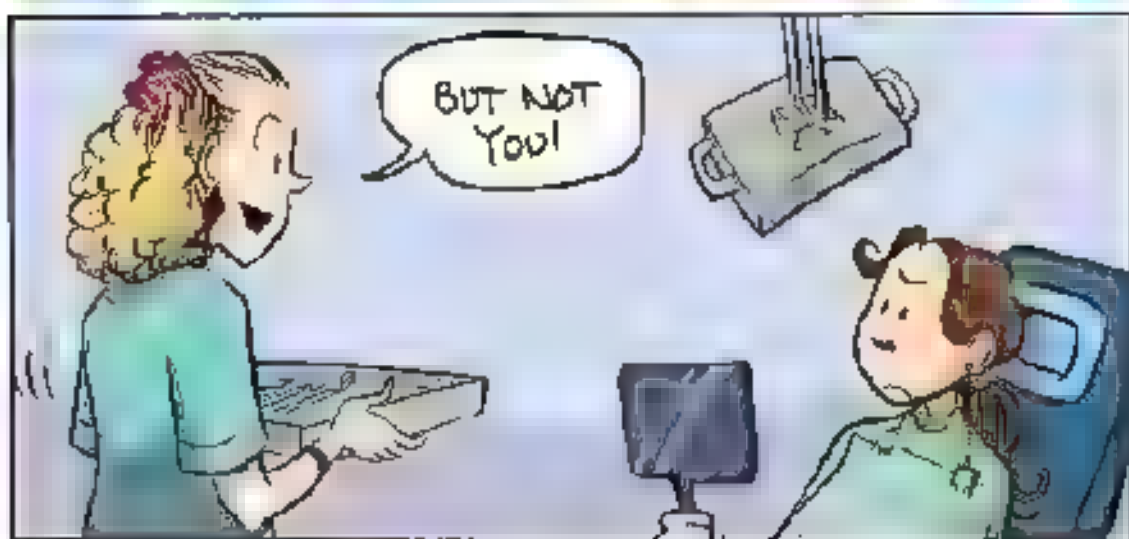


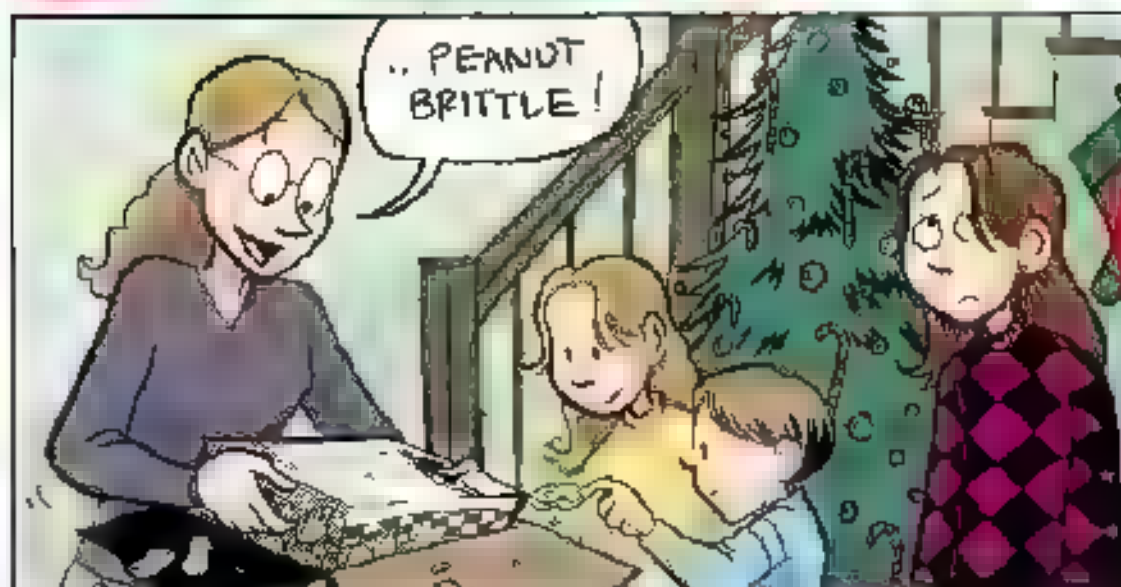


Before my two front teeth could be taken OUT, my braces had to be taken OFF



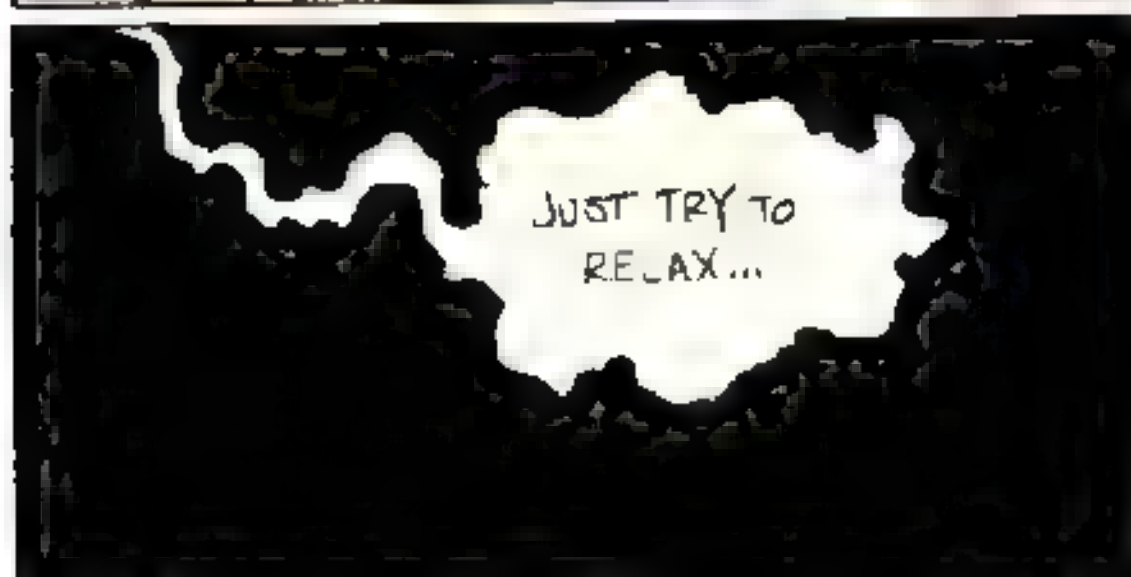
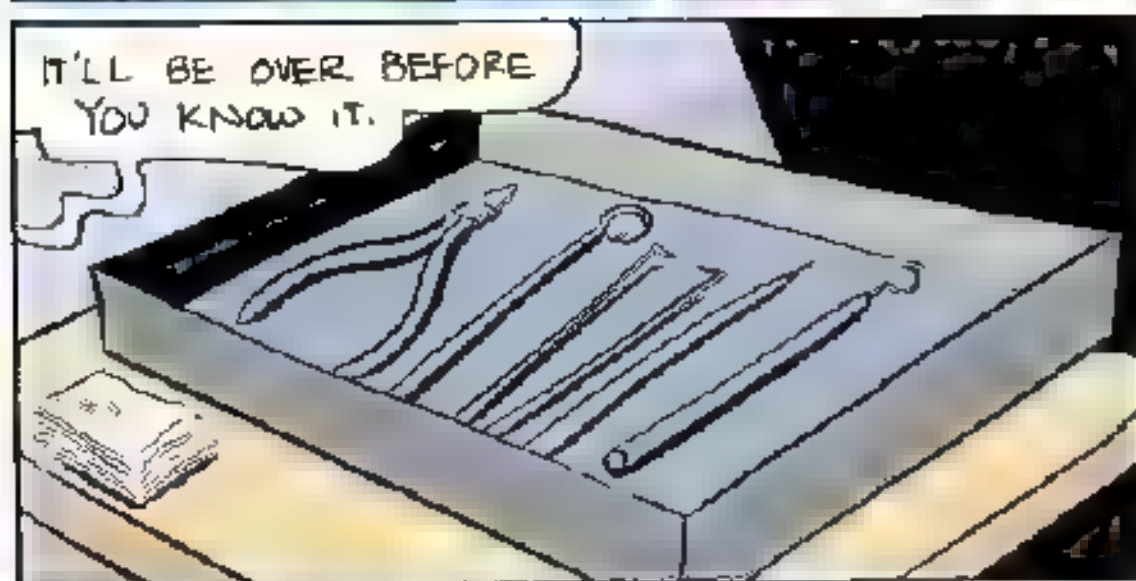
THERE YOU GO!

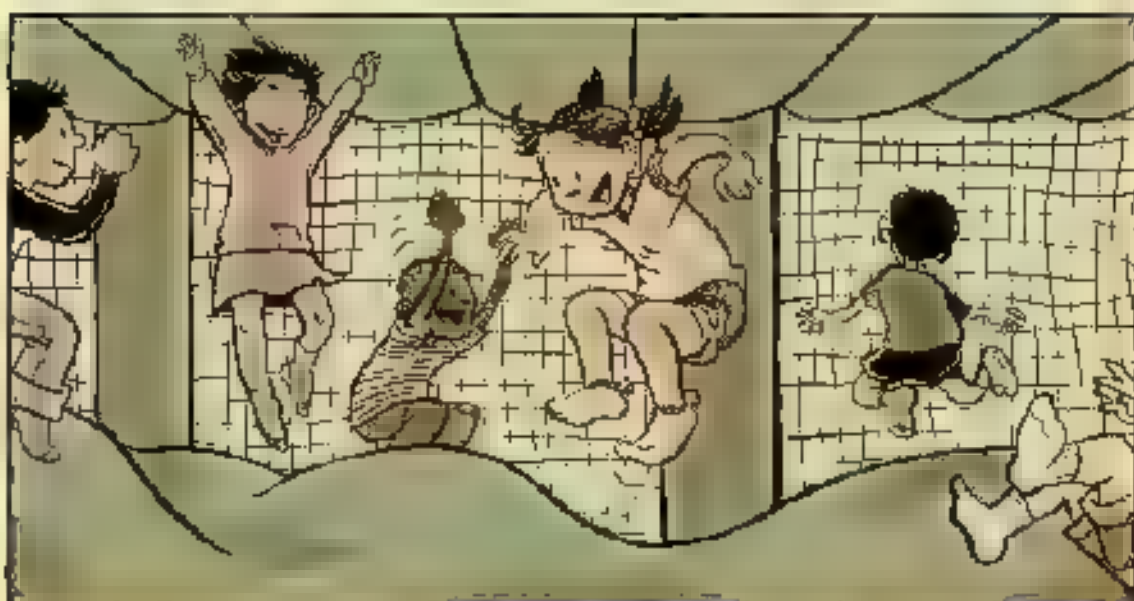
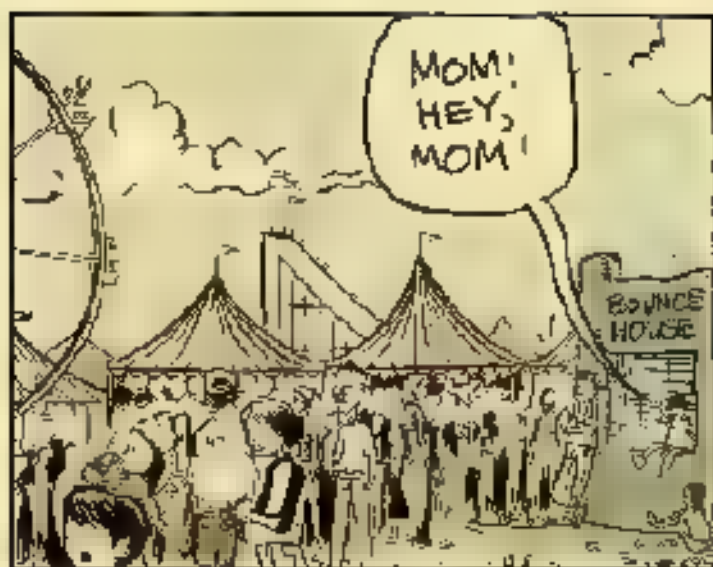




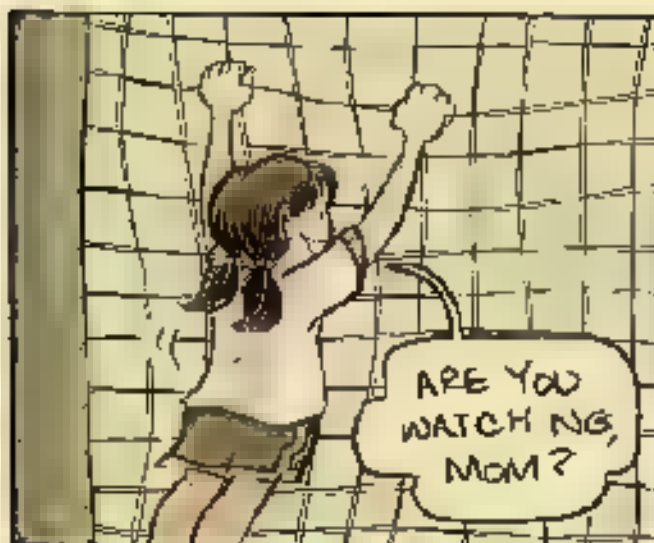


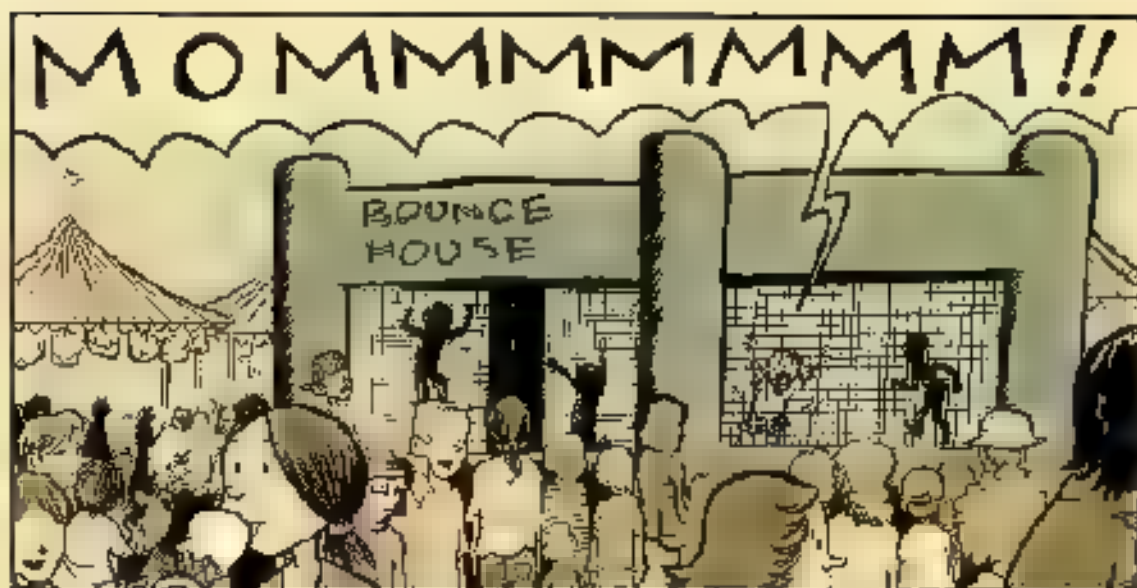


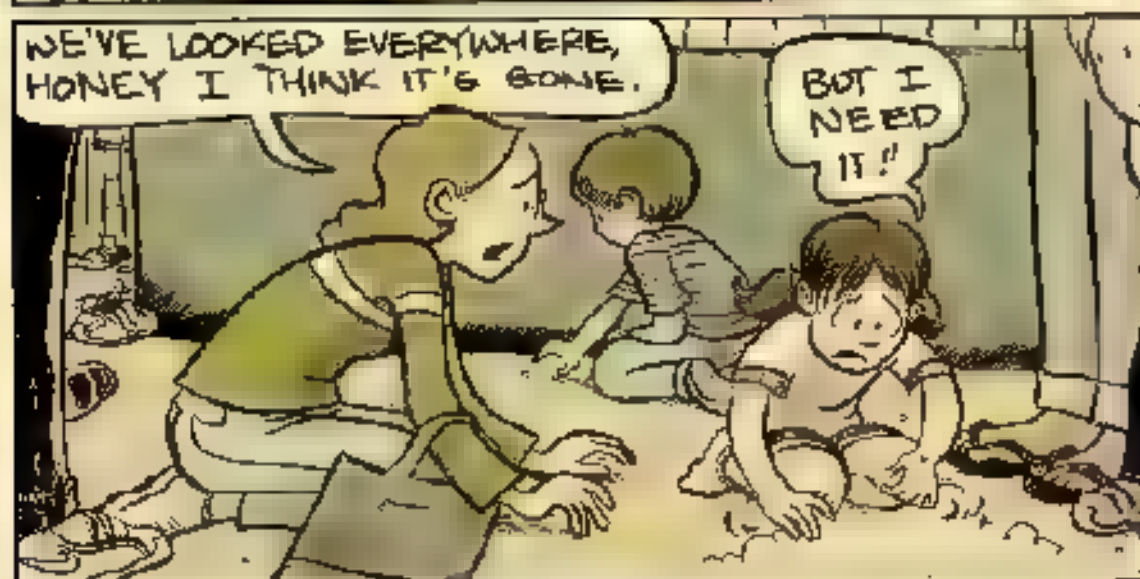
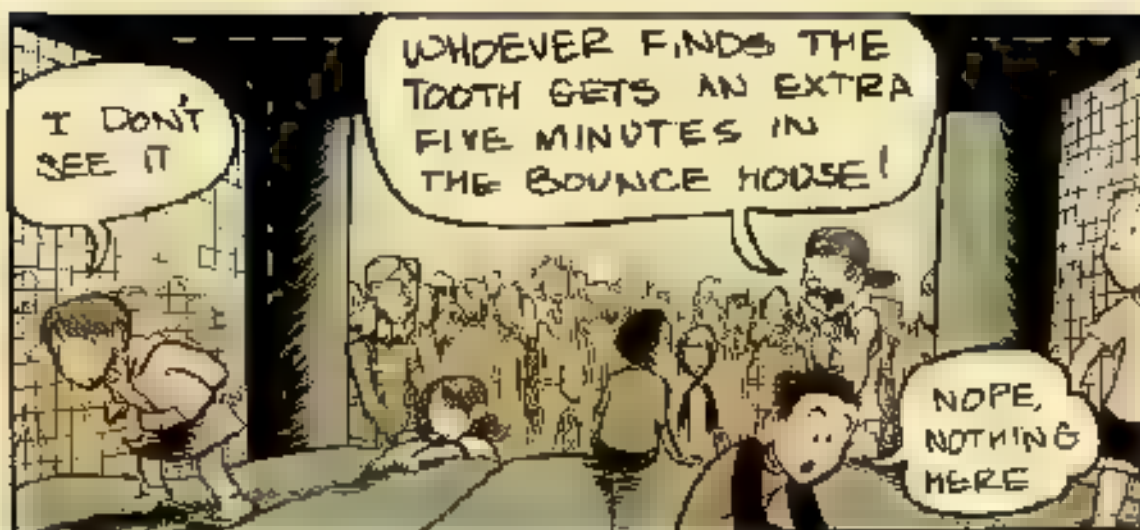




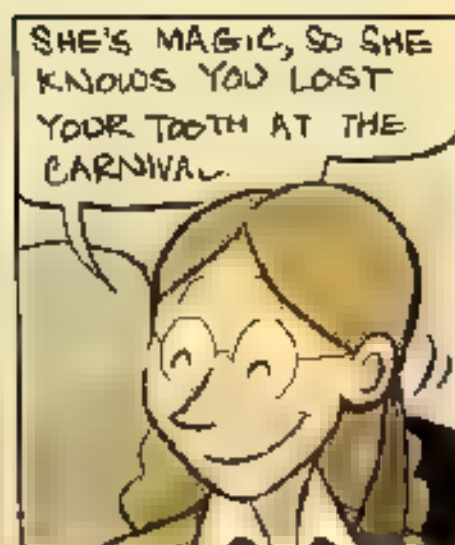


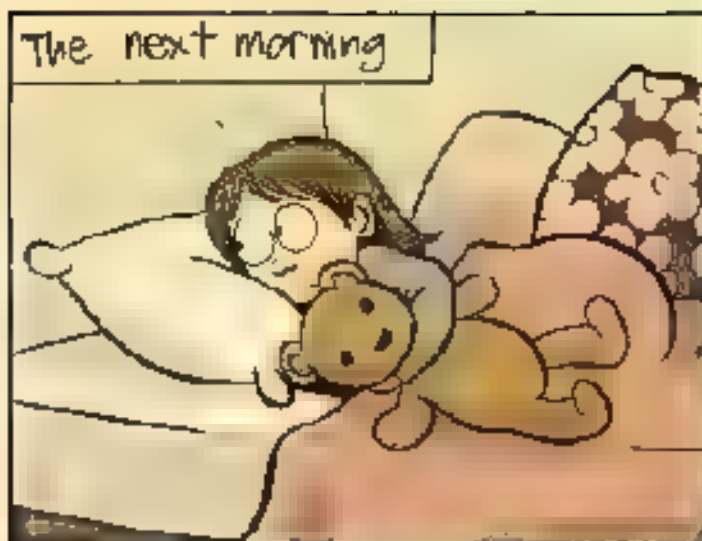


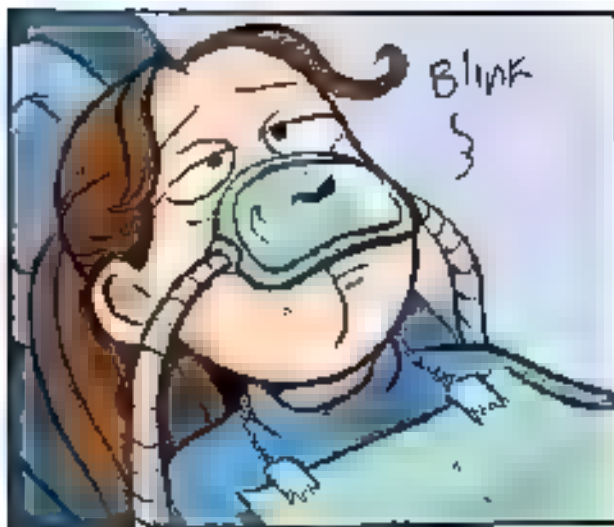




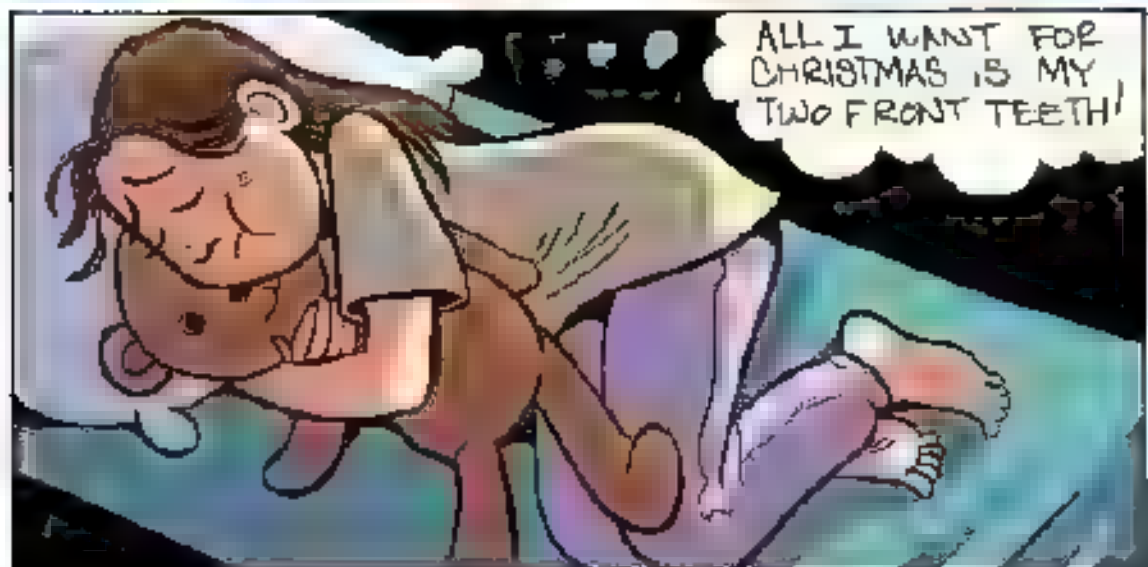
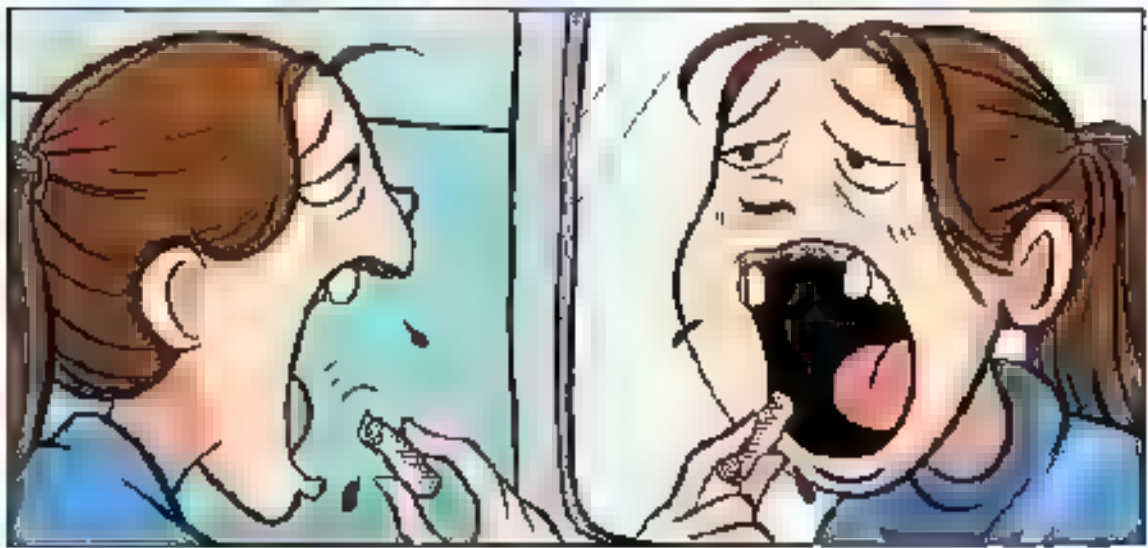




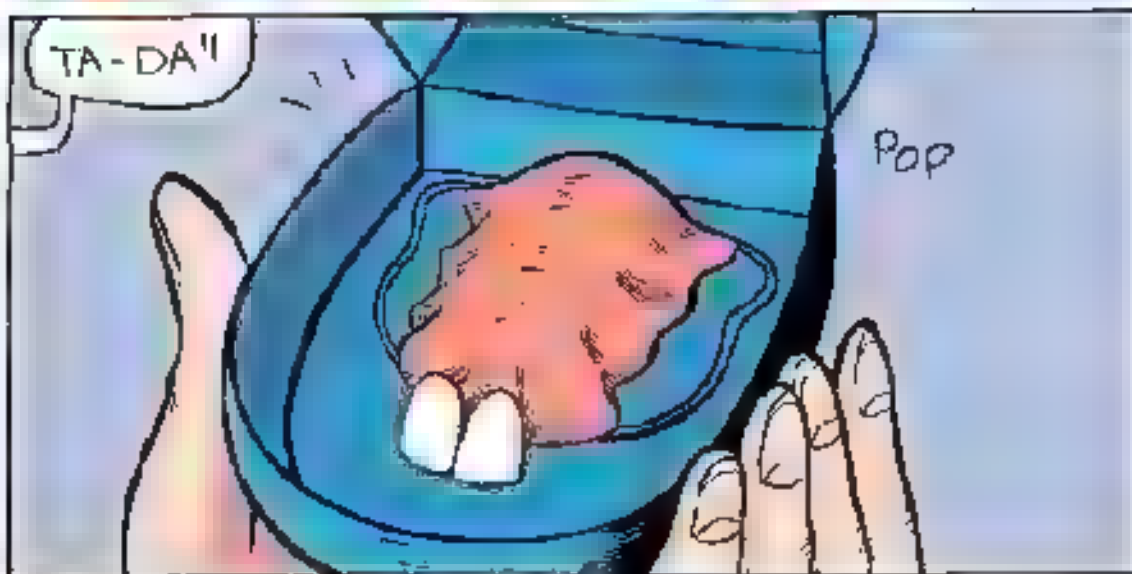




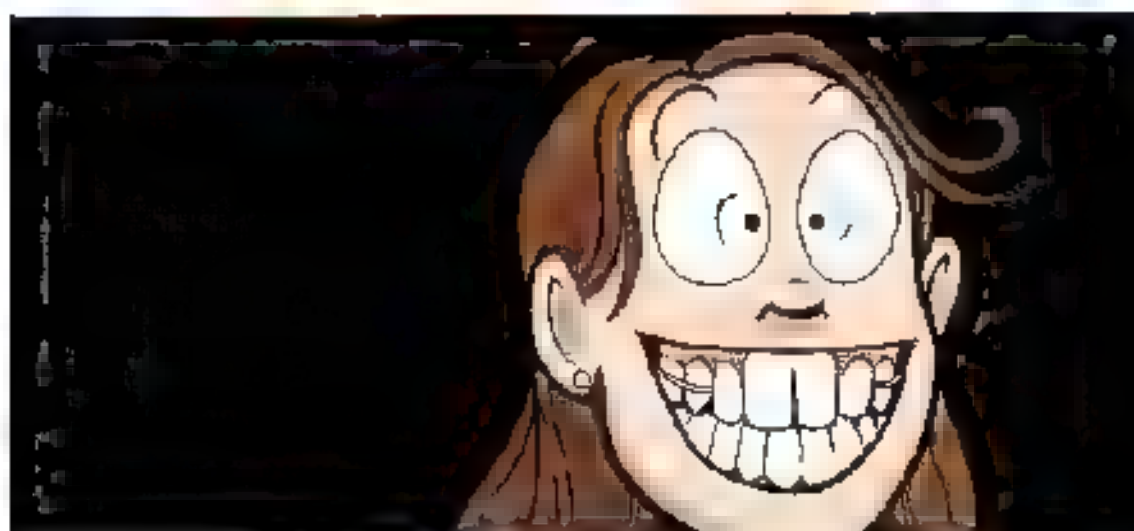


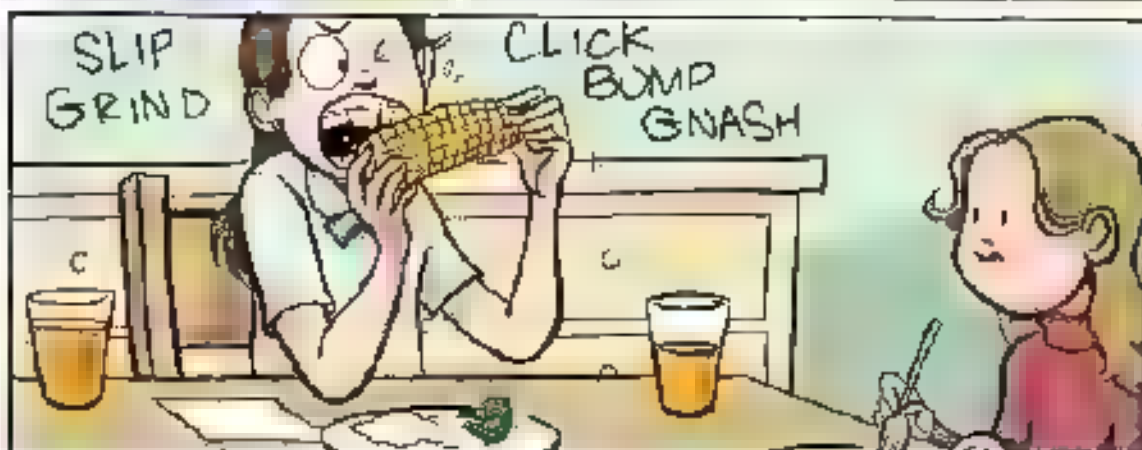






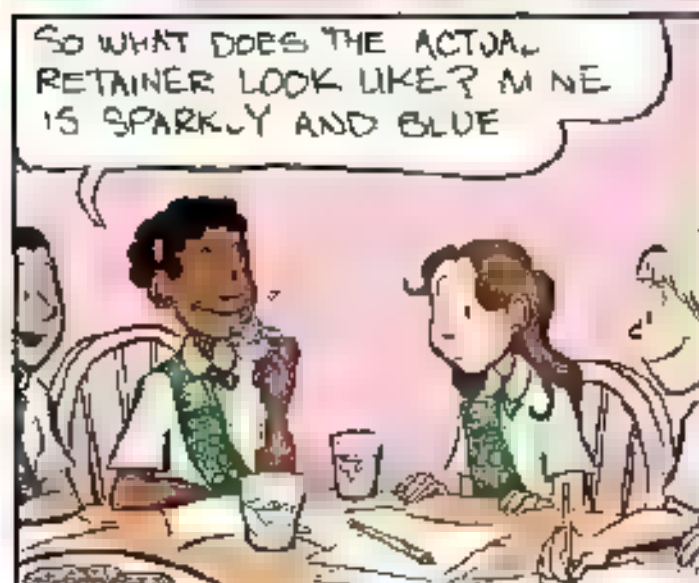












\*PROV. MENTORS TO THE BOLD

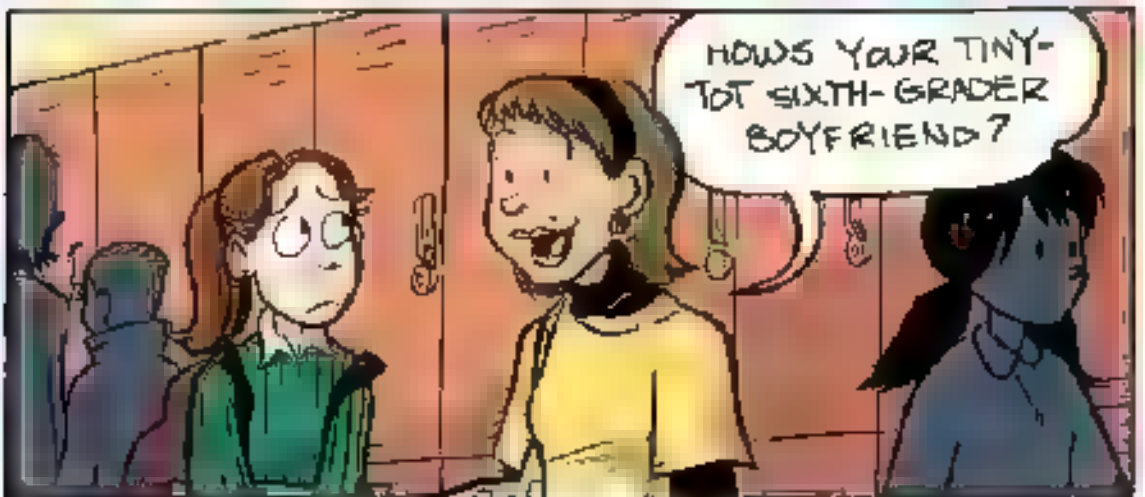
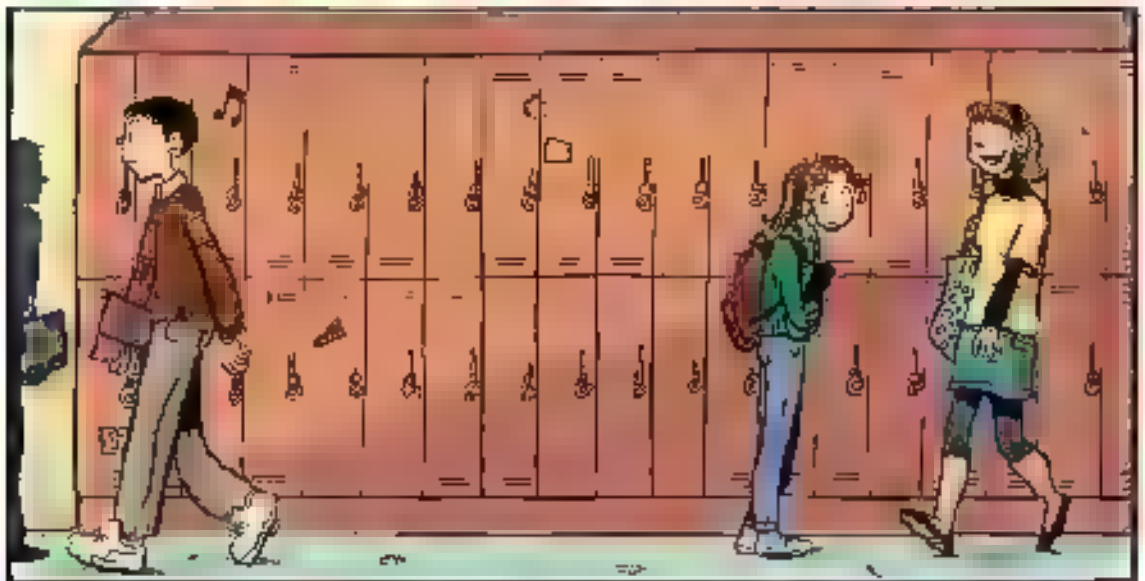
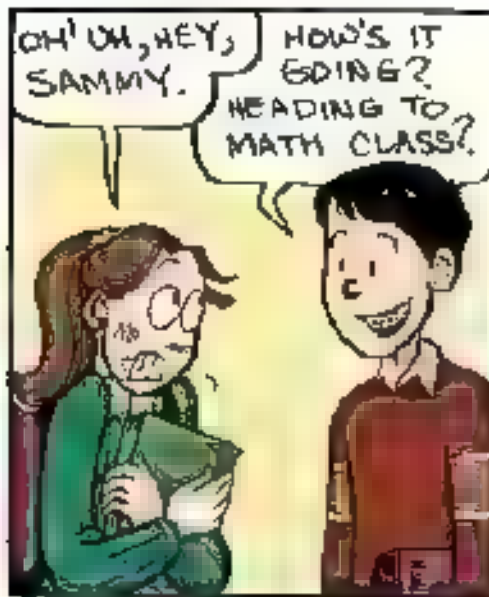


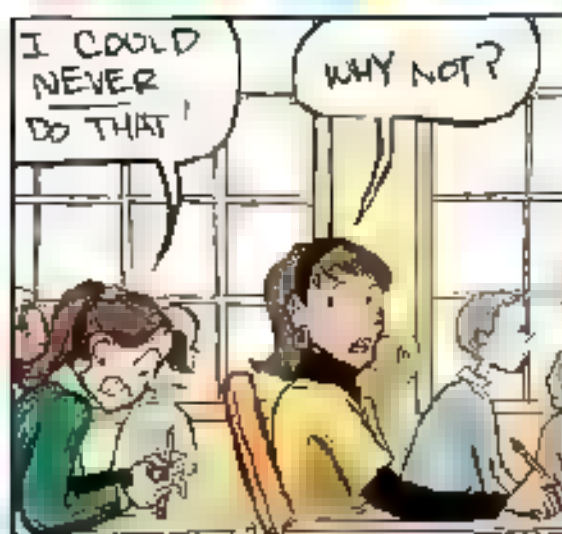
## CHAPTER FIVE



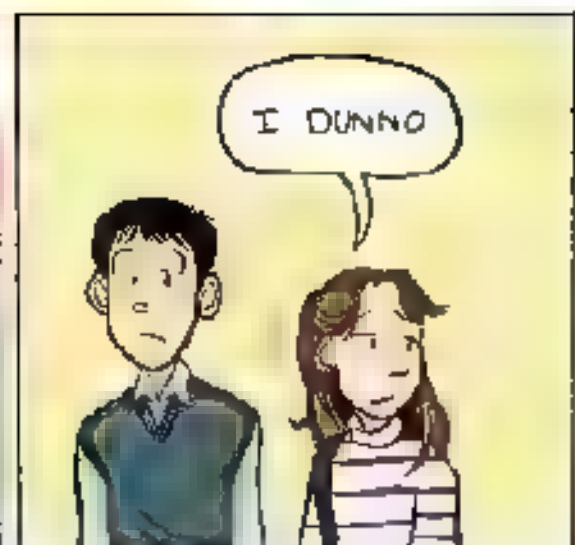




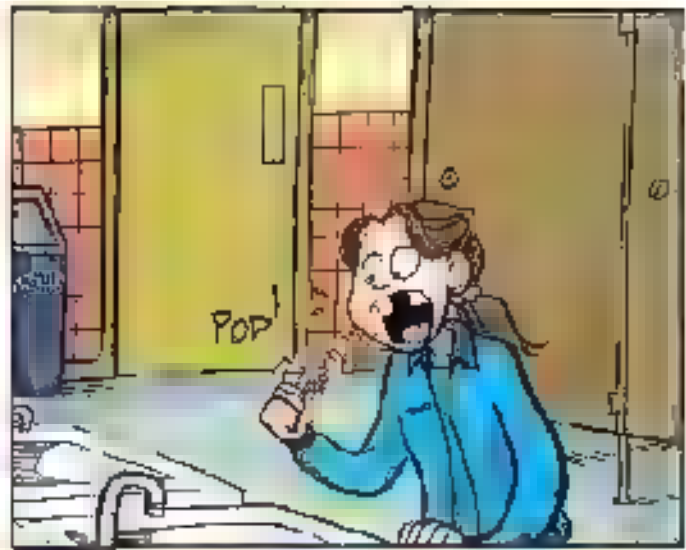






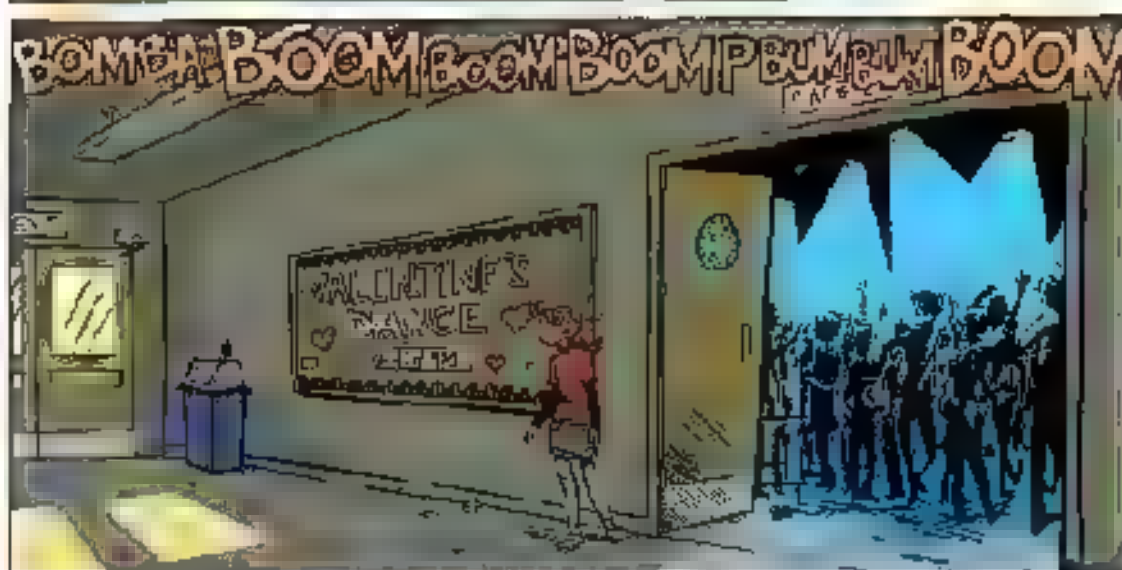
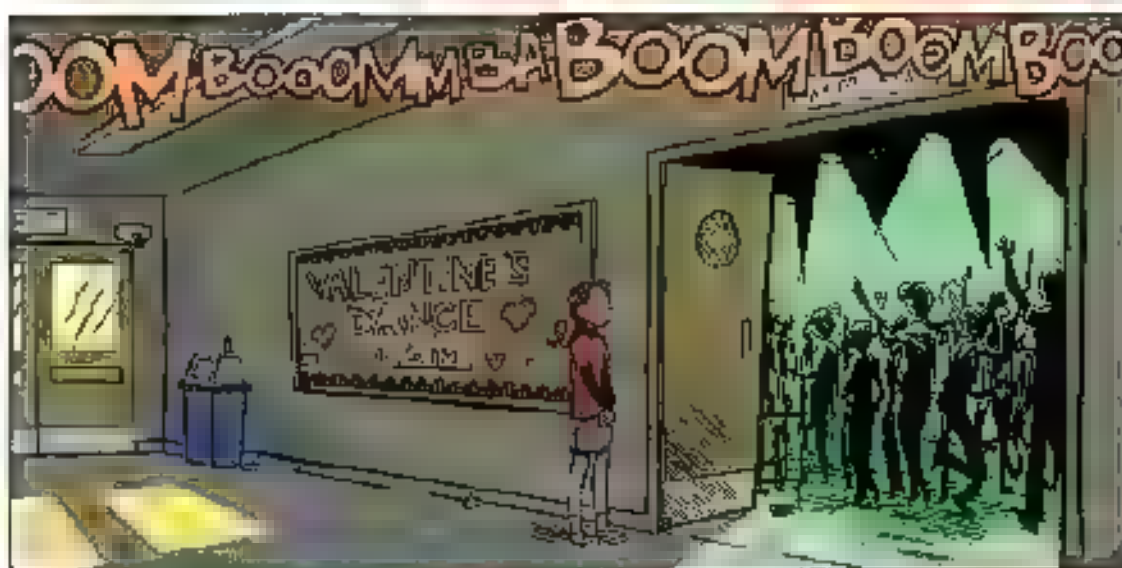


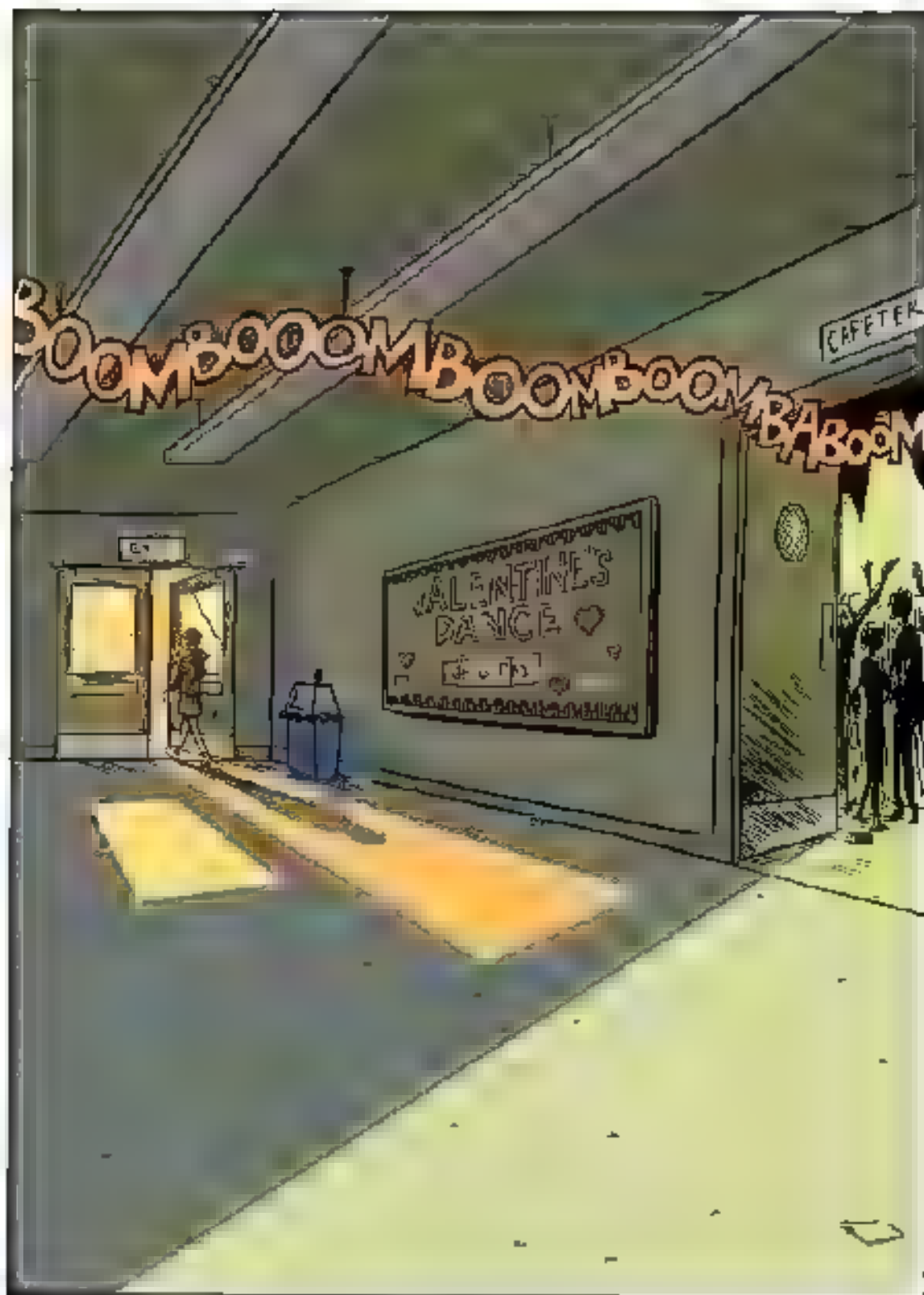




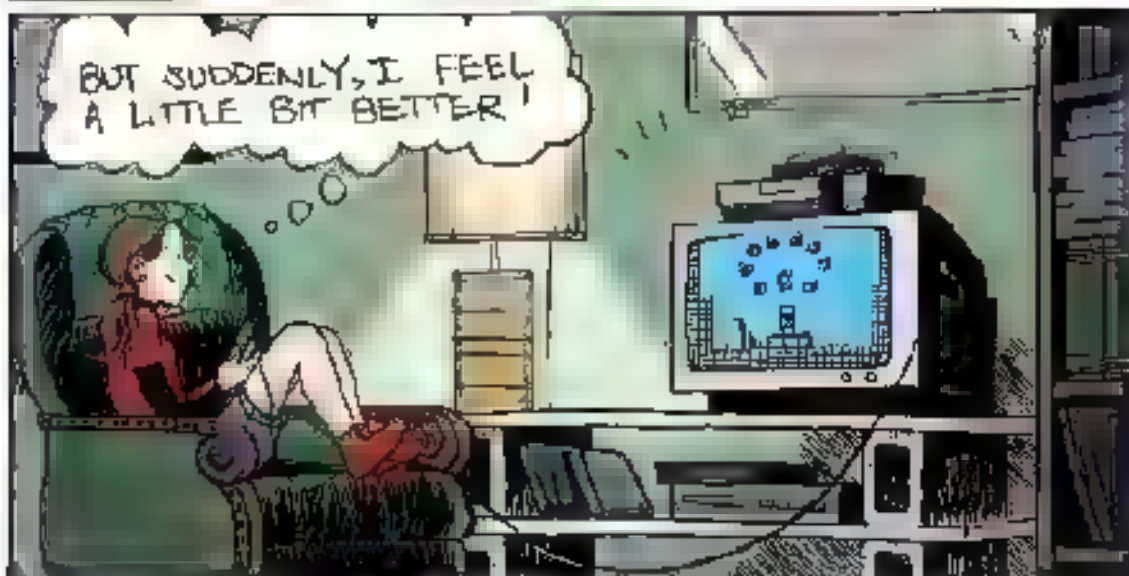
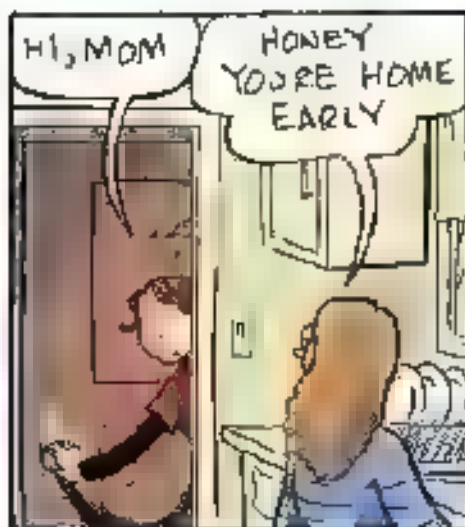


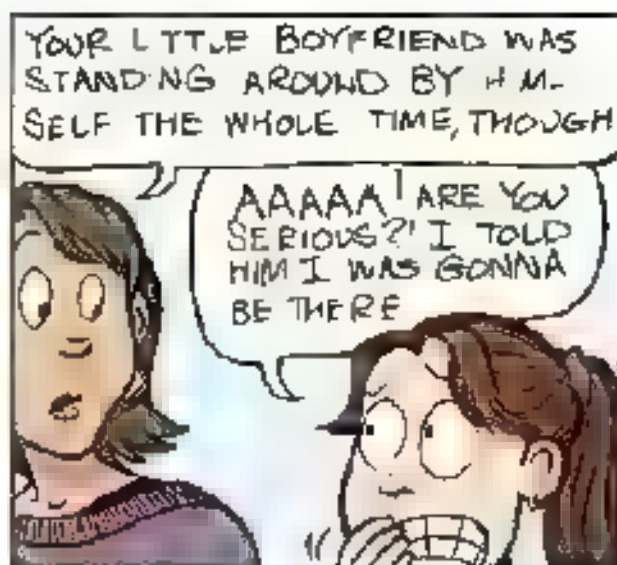


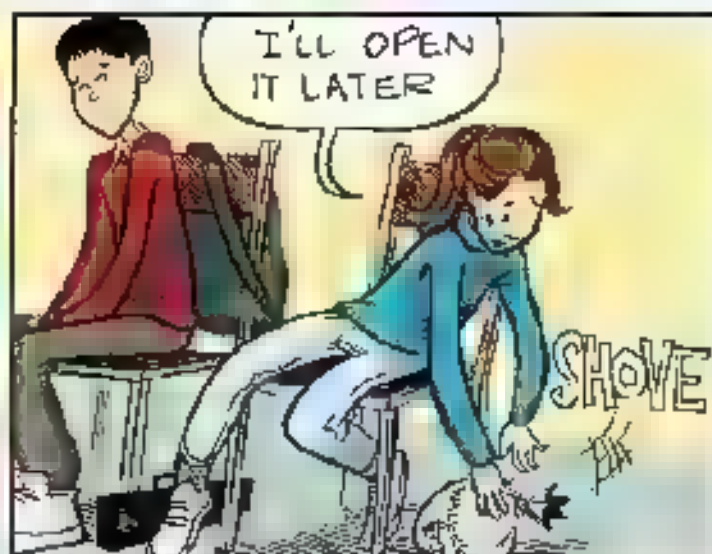




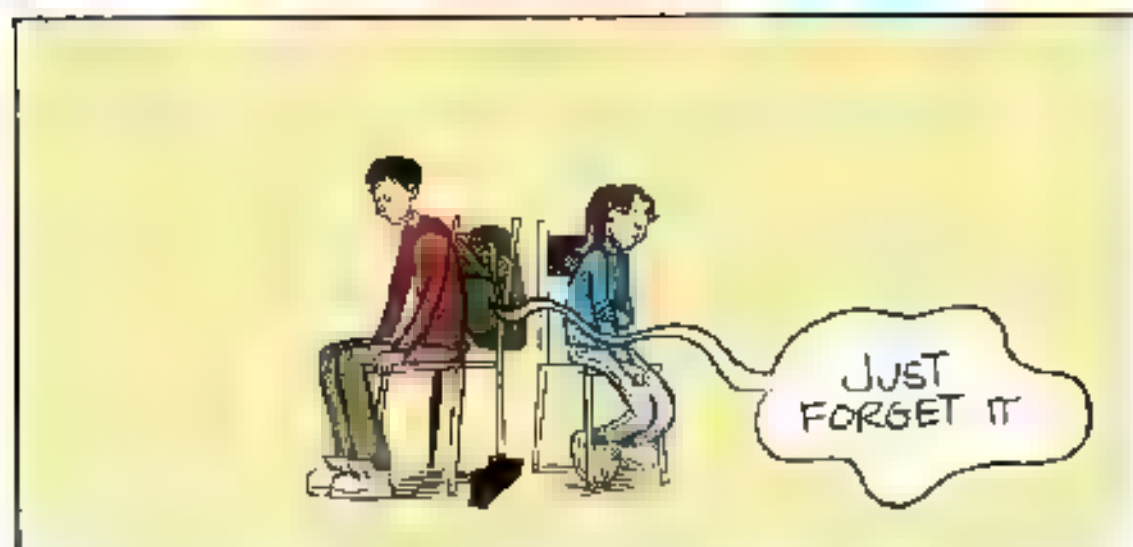
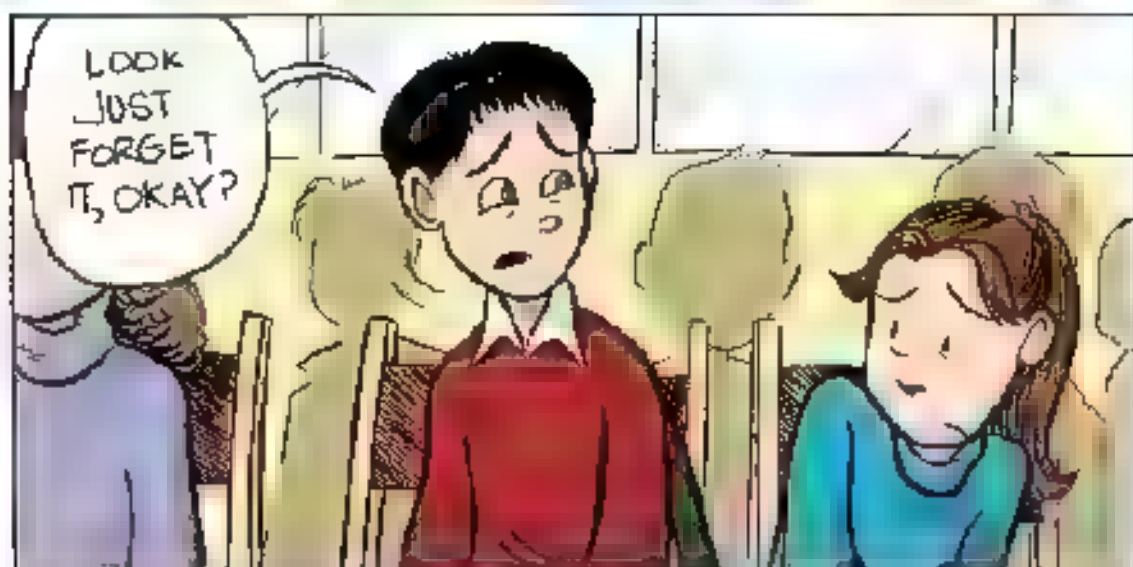


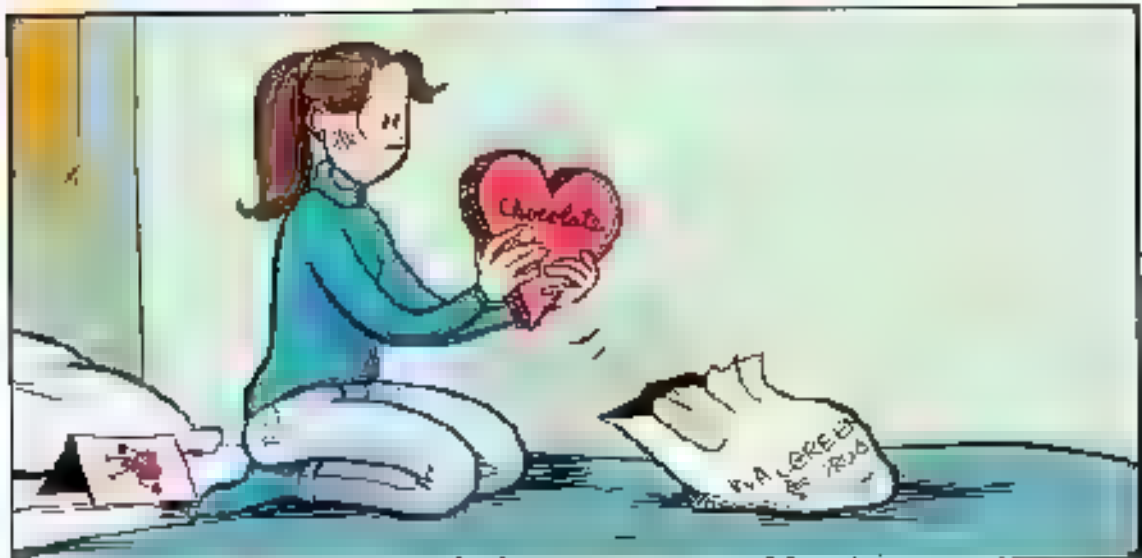
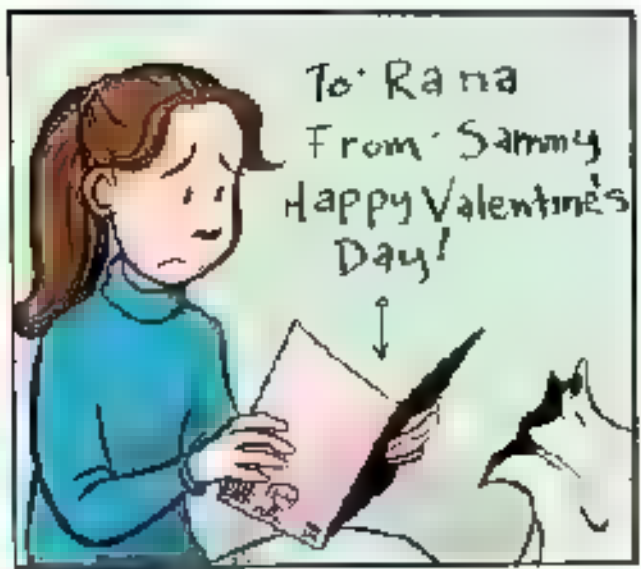
















A BRACE-FACE! I'M GONNA  
BE A BRACE-FACE AGAIN IN  
A COUPLE OF WEEKS



WHICH MEANS I'M GOING TO  
GO BACK TO LOOKING LIKE  
A NERD AGAIN



IT'S SO UNFAIR I FINALLY GET THIS RETAINER  
I FINALLY GET TO LOOK COOL  
FOR A LITTLE WHILE



AND NOW I HAVE  
TO START BACK  
AT SQUARE ONE



ACTUALLY YOU'VE  
ALWAYS LOOKED  
LIKE A NERD



YEAH, "COOL"  
JUST ISN'T THE  
WORD TO DE-  
SCRIBE YOU

YOU GUYS ARE COLD HOW  
COME YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING  
THINGS LIKE THAT?

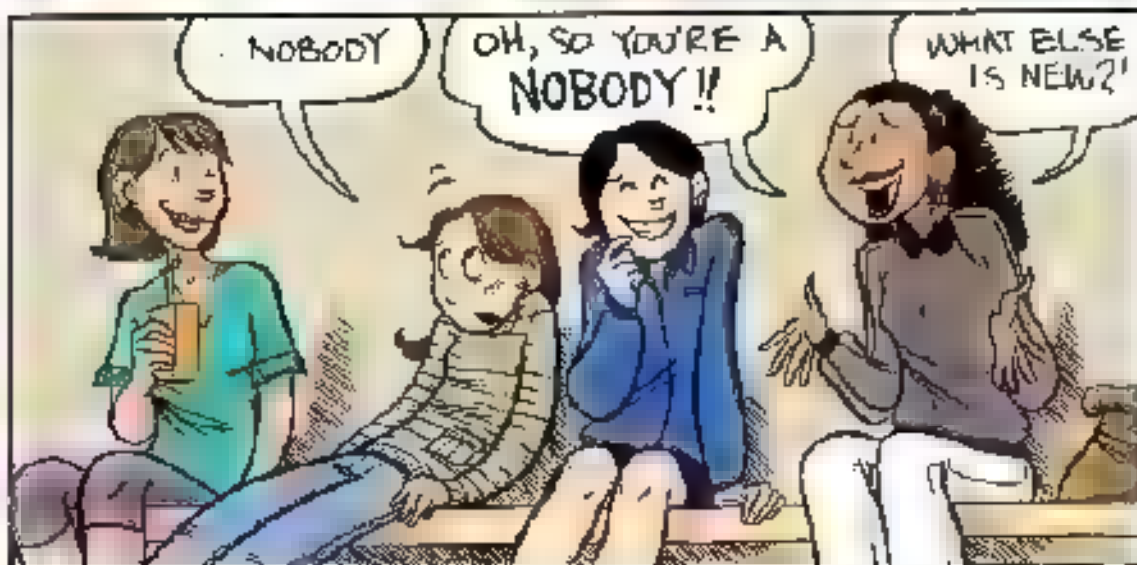


HEY, YOU WALKED  
RIGHT INTO THAT ONE

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED  
YOURSELF A NERD, NOT ME.



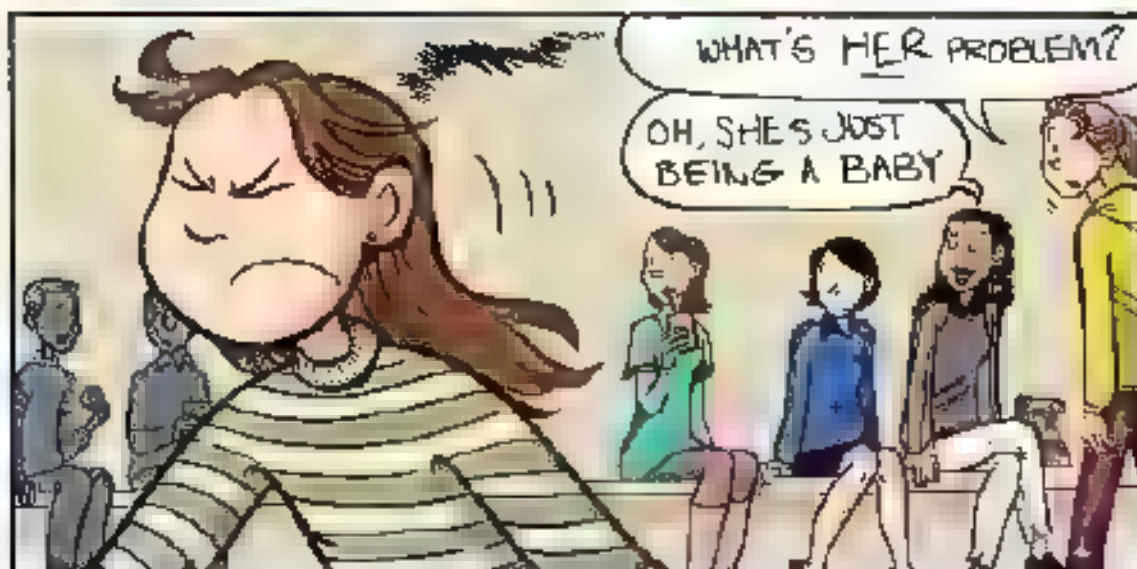
WHO'S A  
NERD NOW?



NOBODY

OH, SO YOU'RE A  
NOBODY!!

WHAT ELSE  
IS NEW?!

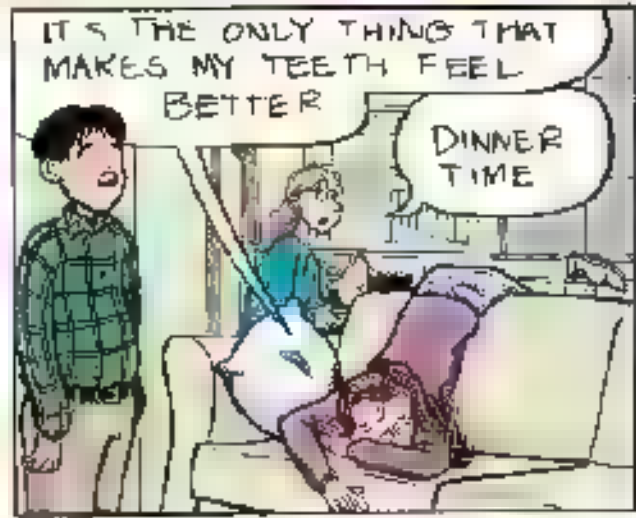


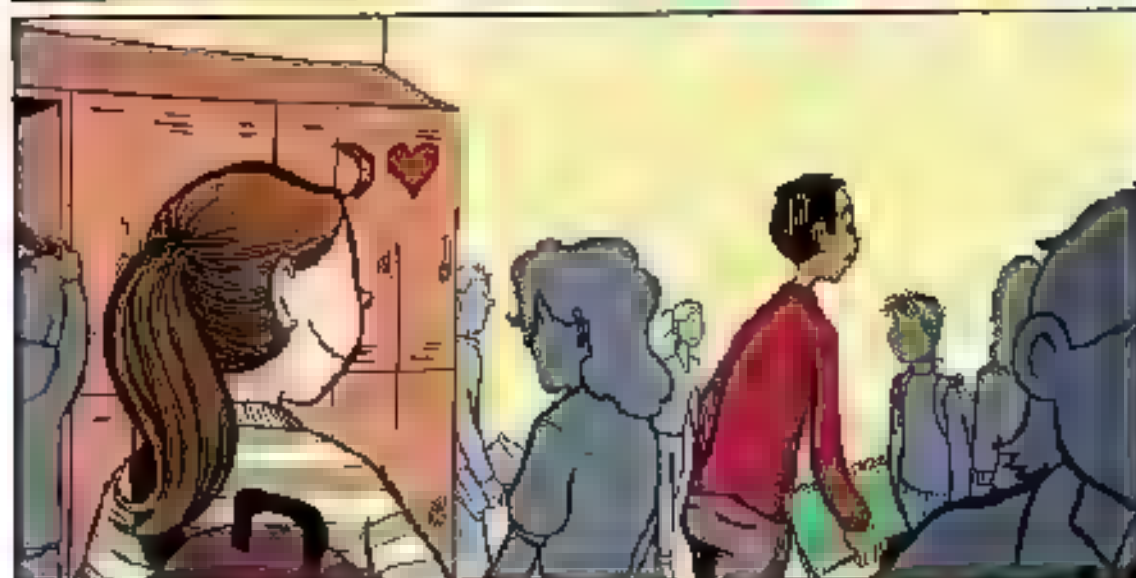
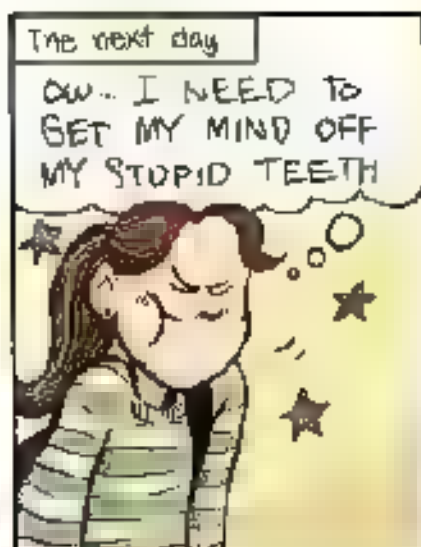
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?

OH, SHE'S JUST  
BEING A BABY







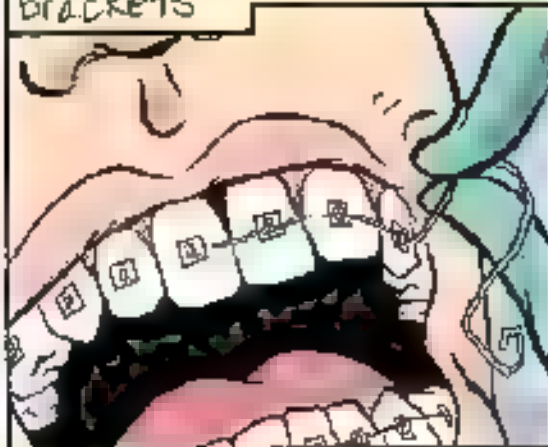








The orthodontist takes the current wires off of your brackets



...and puts new wires on



And then he **TIGHTENS THEM**



The ends of the wires are clipped off



AND WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN IN TWO WEEKS!



Before I knew it, my birthday rolled around again



OKAY YOU ARE THIRTEEN YEARS OLD

I KNOW. IT'S CRAZY



IT'S TIME YOU KISSED YOUR FIRST BOY, I'D SAY

HUH?



COME ON, RAINA EVERYONE KNOWS YOU HAVE THE HOTS FOR SEAN

EXCEPT FOR SEAN HIMSELF!



IT'S TIME TO MAKE A MOVE IT'S TIME TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION!



IT'S TIME FOR A MAKEOVER!

AAACK HANG ON! WAIT!!







SEAN TOLD YOU? DOES THAT MEAN YOU TALKED TO HIM ABOUT WHAT HE LIKES IN A GIRL? DOES THAT MEAN.



...YOU TALKED TO HIM ABOUT ME ?!



YUP



WOW. UM, I GUESS IF HE REALLY SAID THAT'S WHAT HE LIKES.



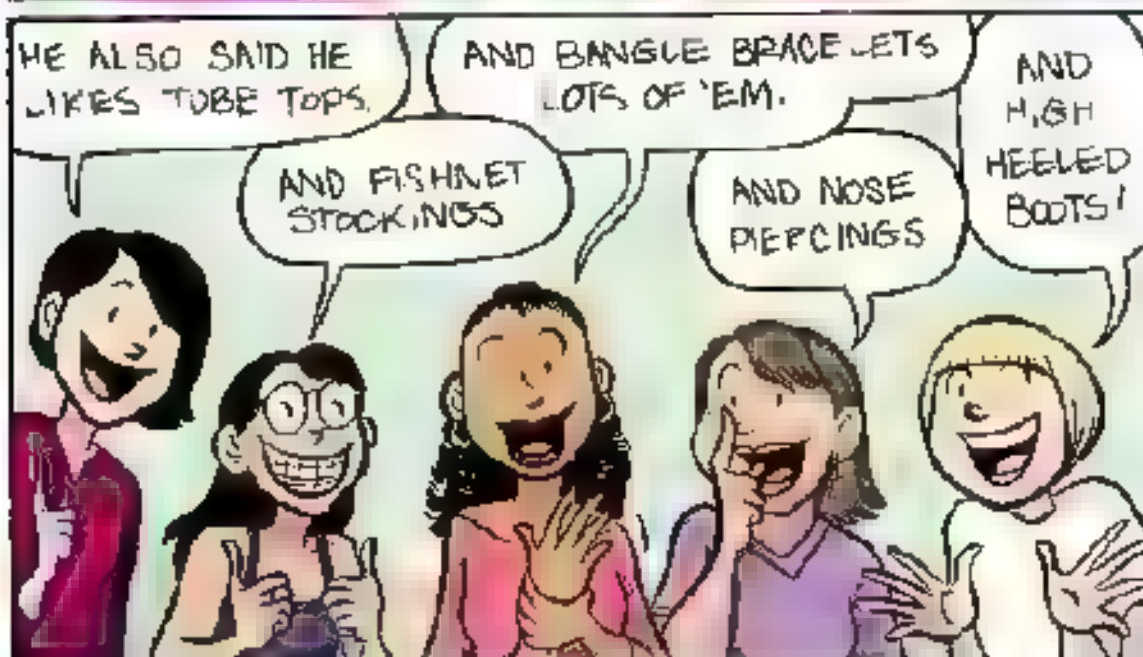
HE ALSO SAID HE LIKES TUBE TOPS.

AND BANGLE BRACELETS LOTS OF 'EM.

AND HIGH HEELED BOOTS!

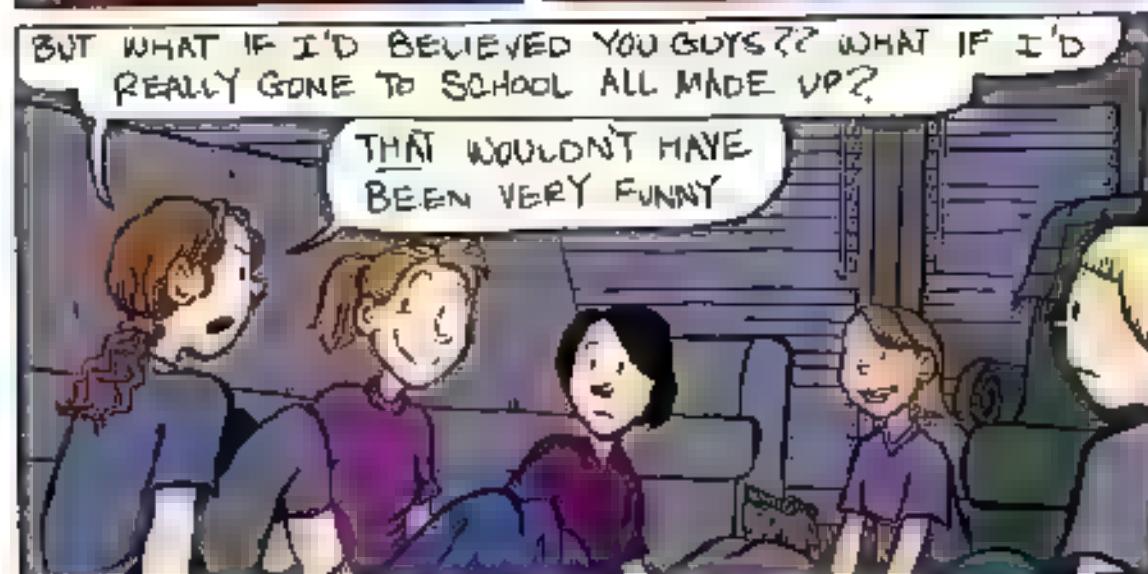
AND FISHNET STOCKINGS

AND NOSE PIERCINGS

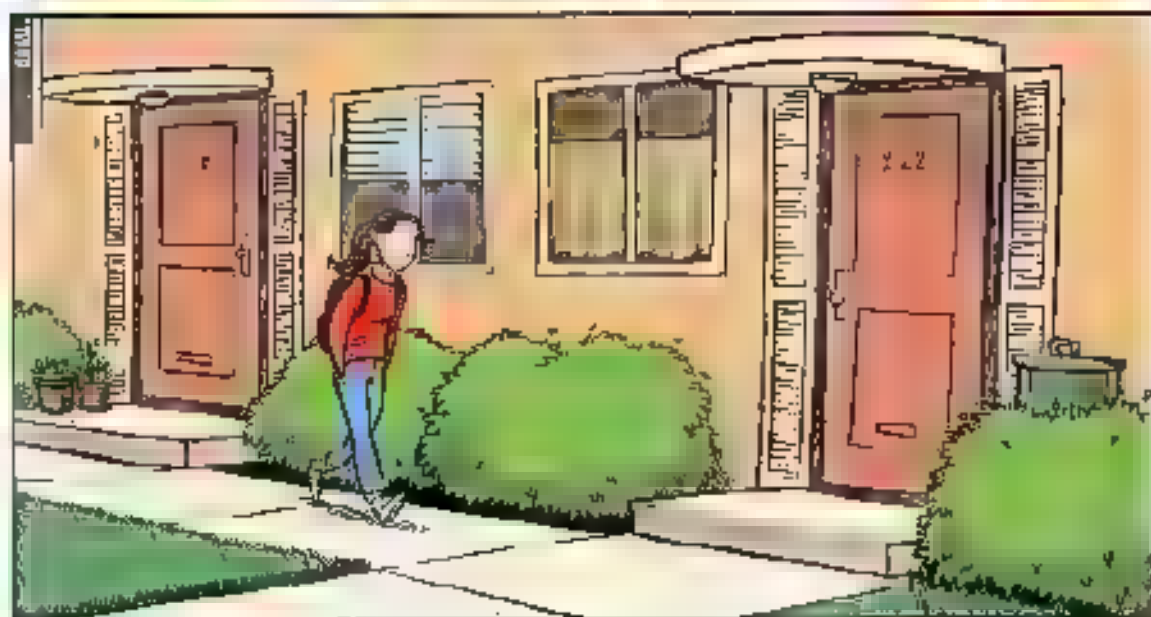
















## CHAPTER SIX

The summer between seventh and eighth grade was mostly uneventful.



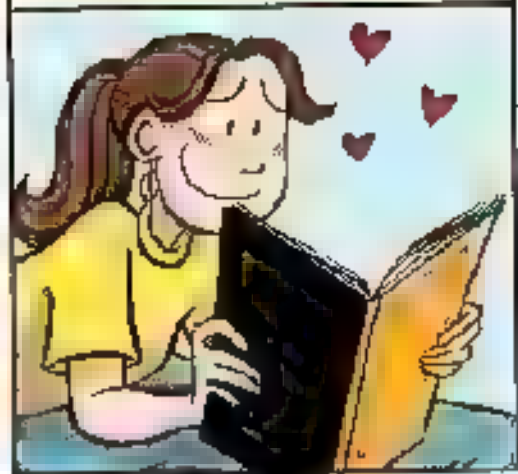
The weather was cold (like always), so I stayed inside a lot.



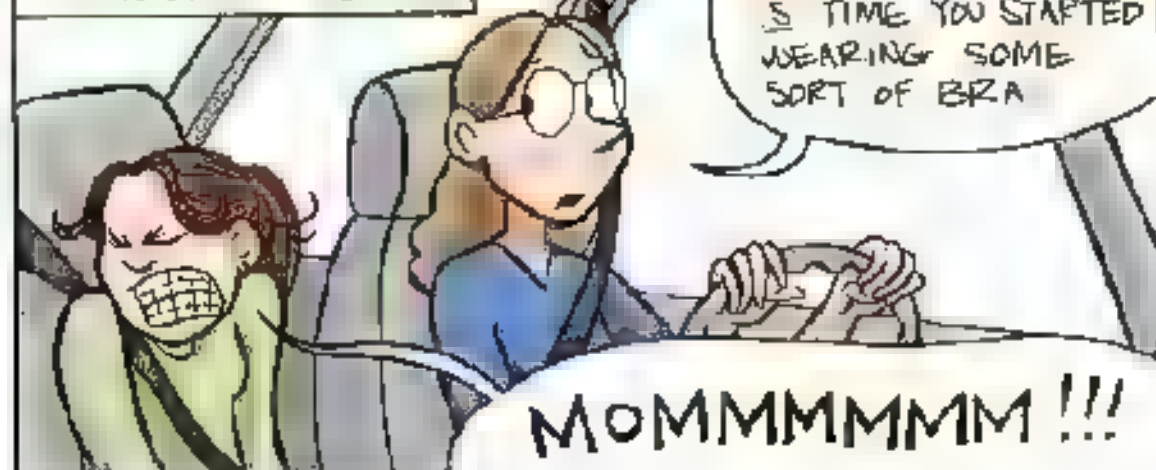
pretended I'd given SEAN my phone number

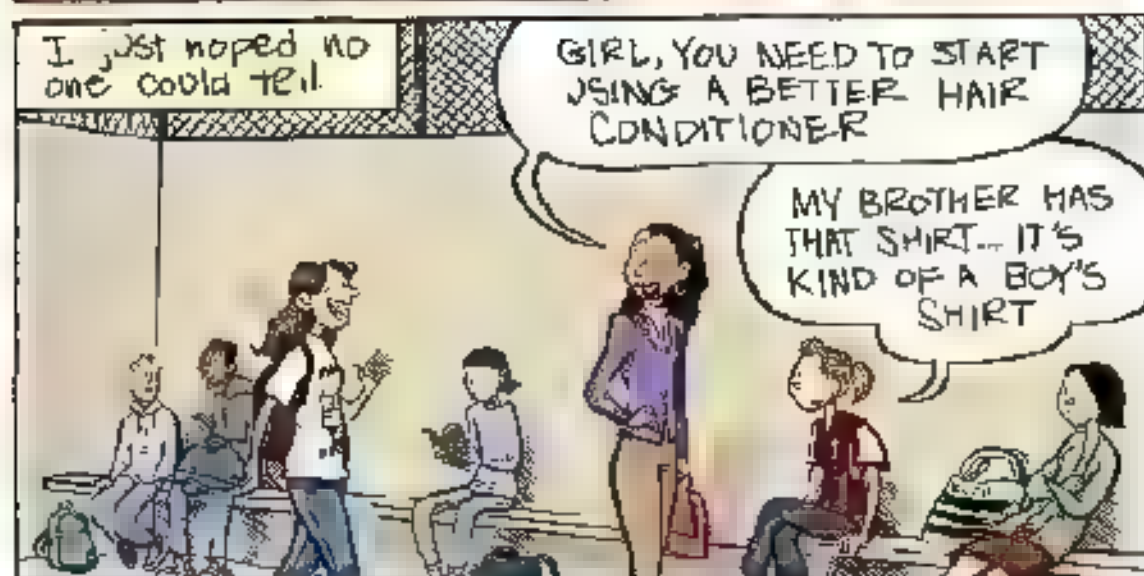
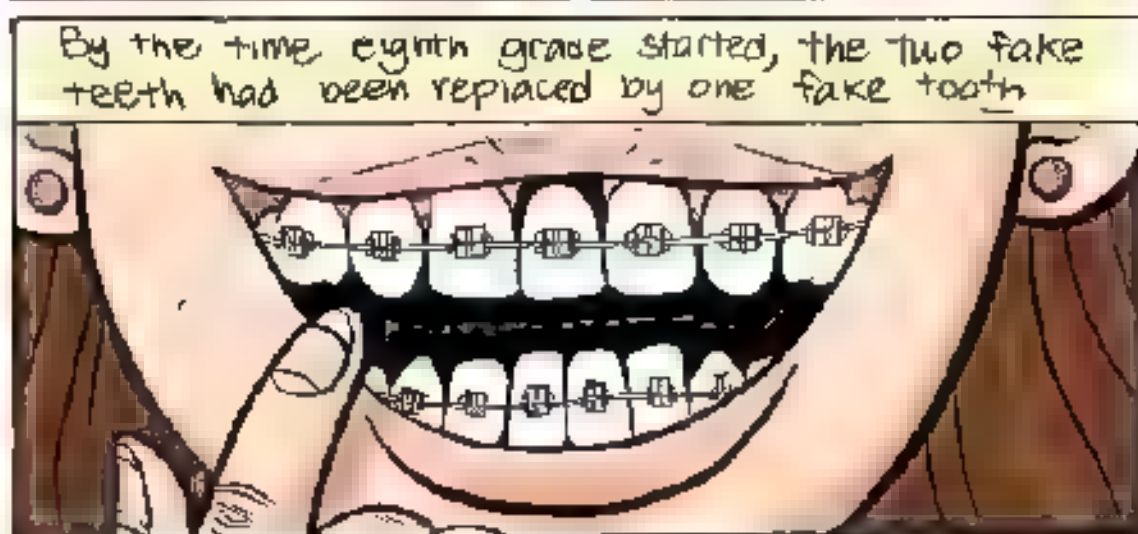
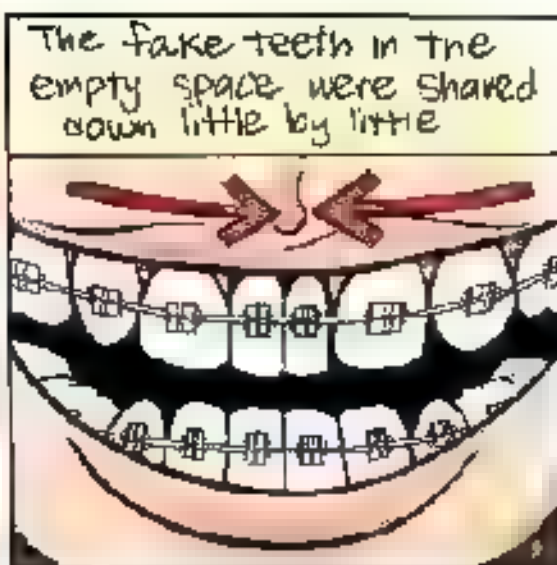
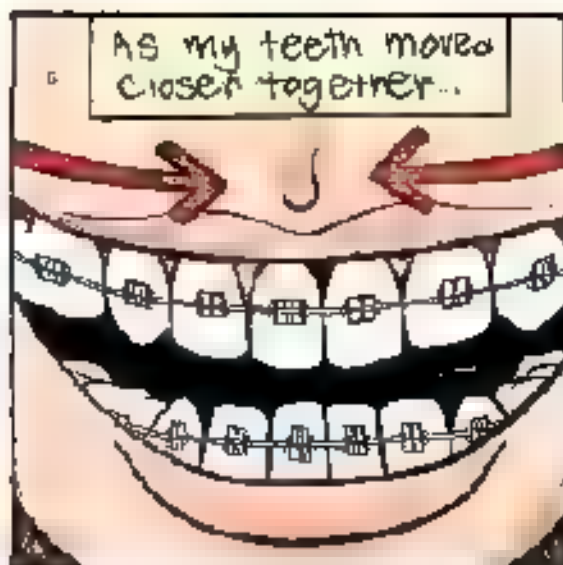


mooned over a certain someone's picture.



and avoided the obvious









The only boy who didn't seem to notice what was going on, was... well, guess

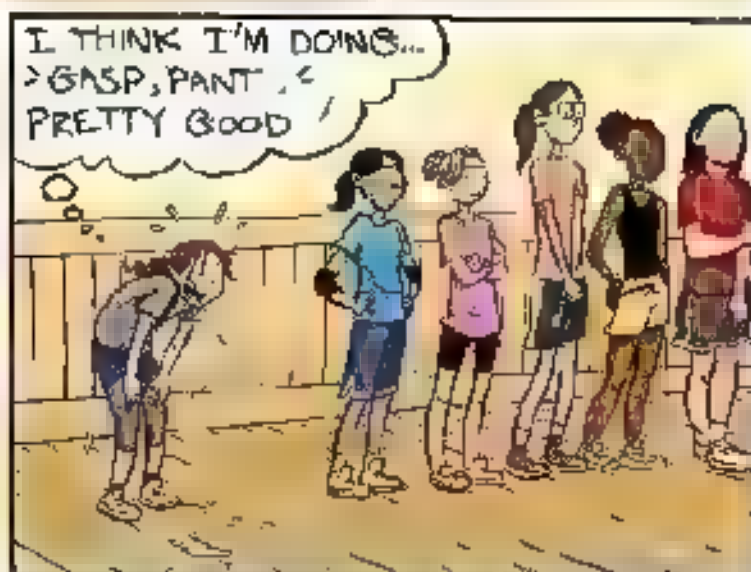
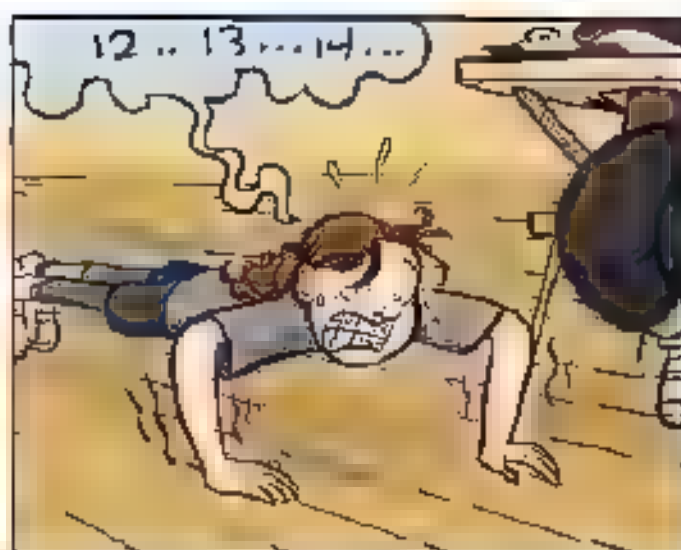


SEAN'S NEVER GOING TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOU. HE'S TOO MUCH OF A BASKETBALL-BRAIN.

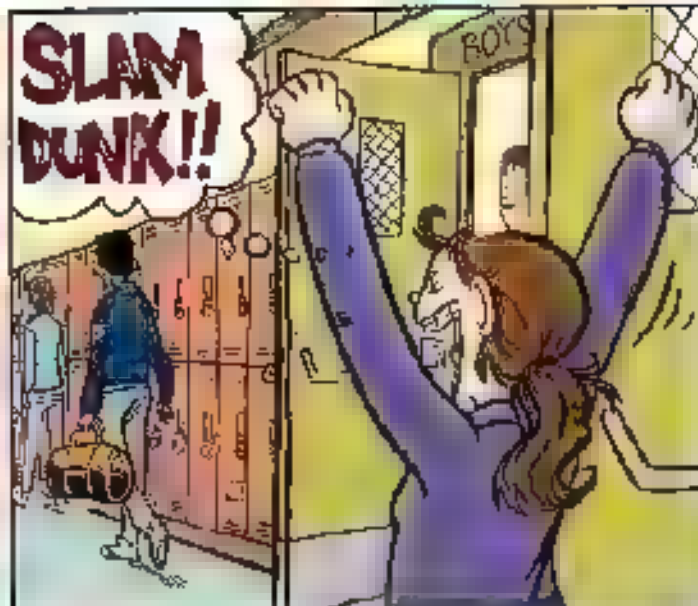
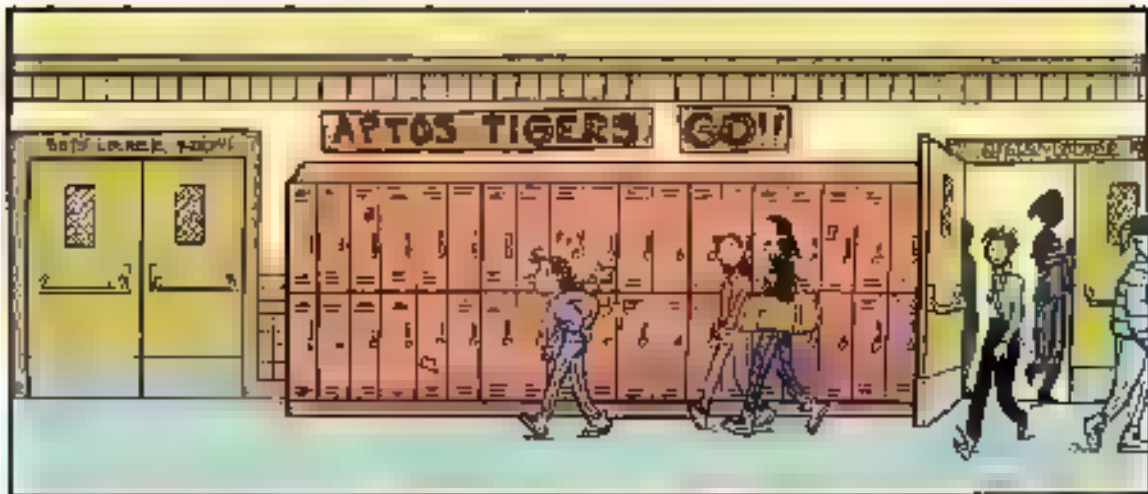


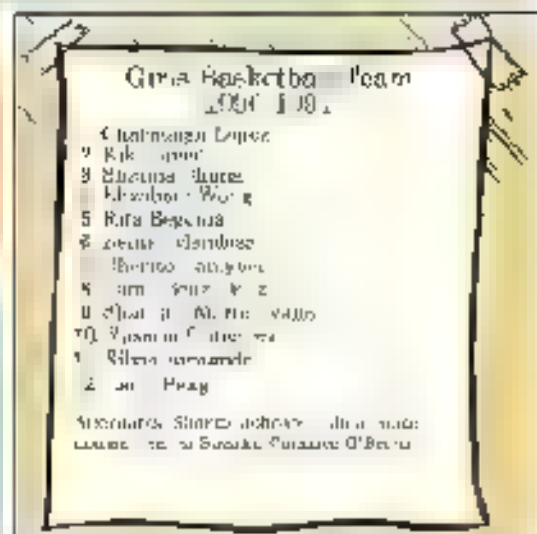
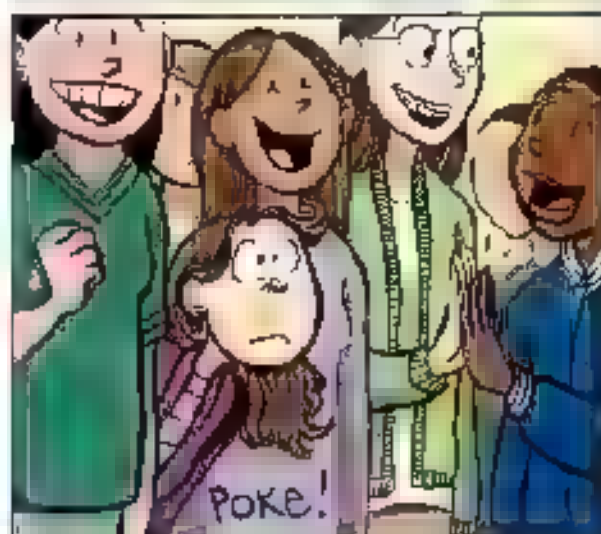
IF IT DOESN'T HAVE TO DO WITH THREE-POINTERS OR MICHAEL JORDAN, HE ISN'T INTERESTED

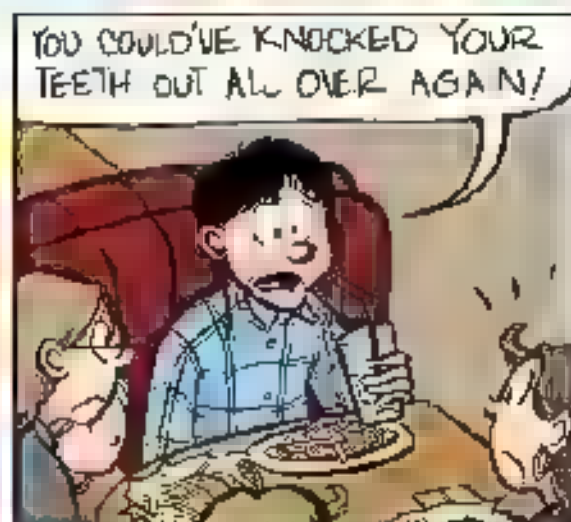
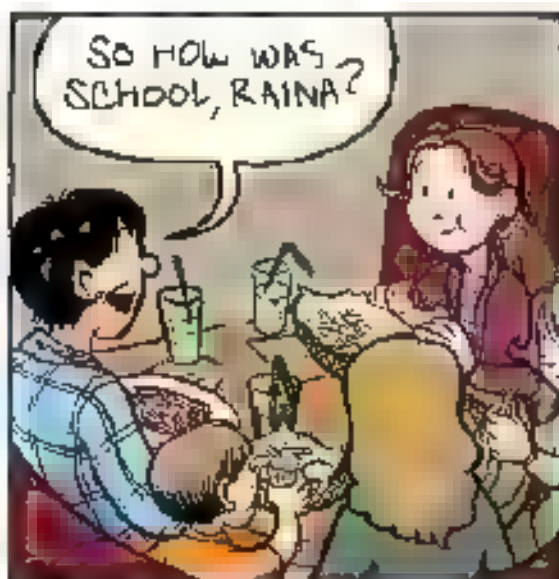






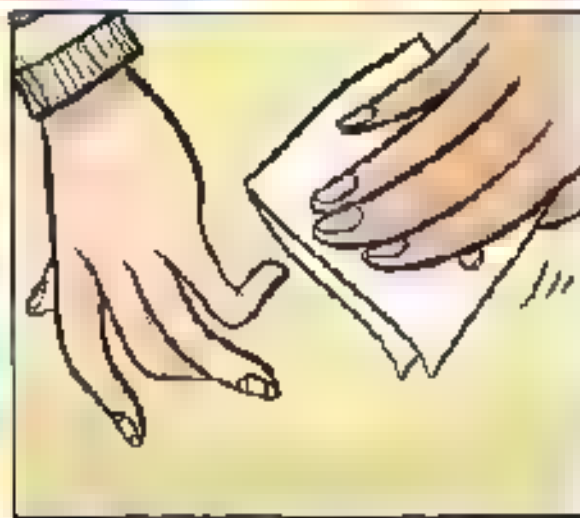
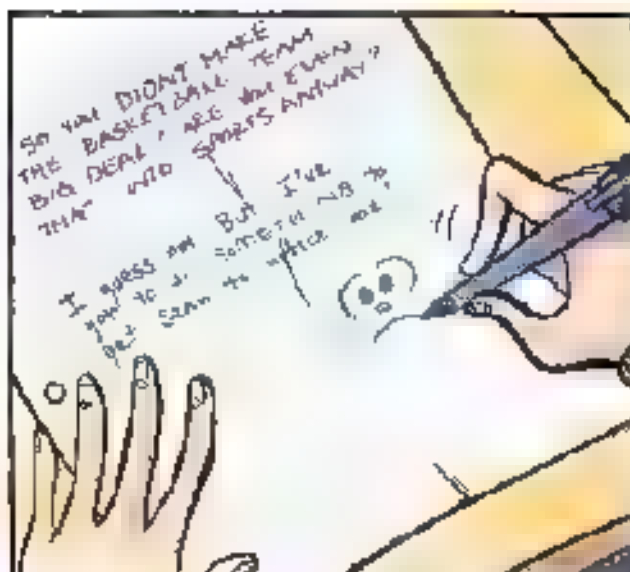


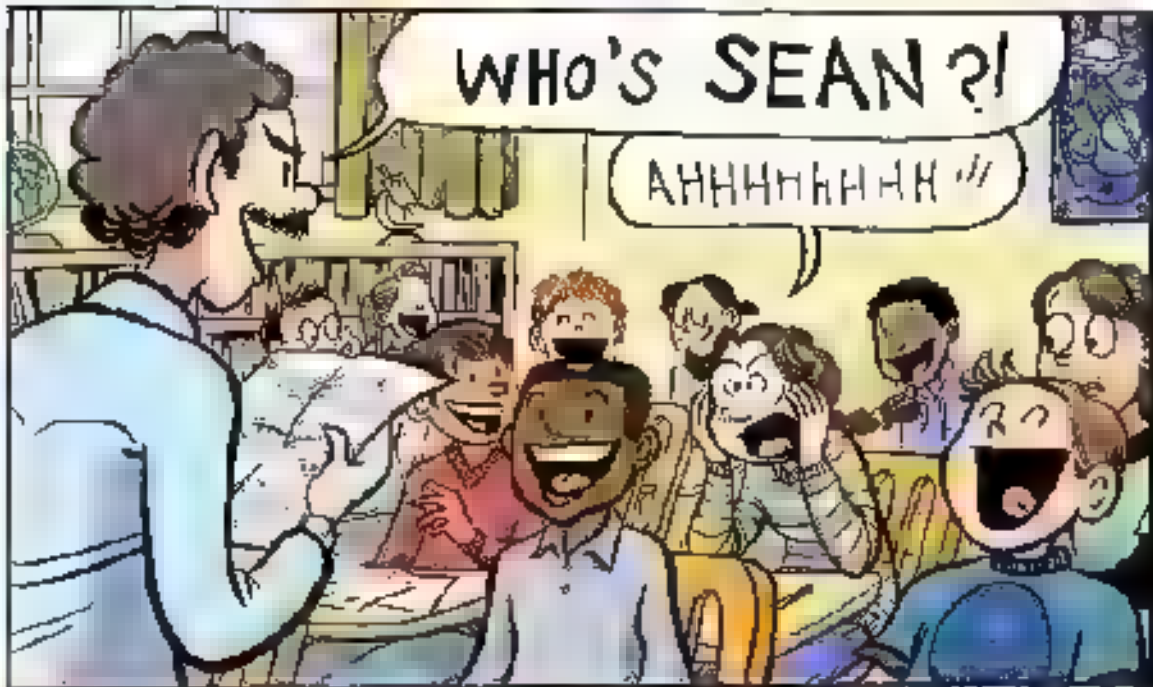
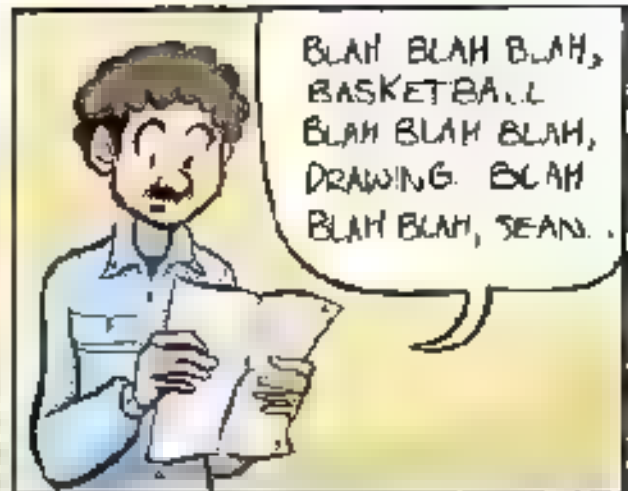




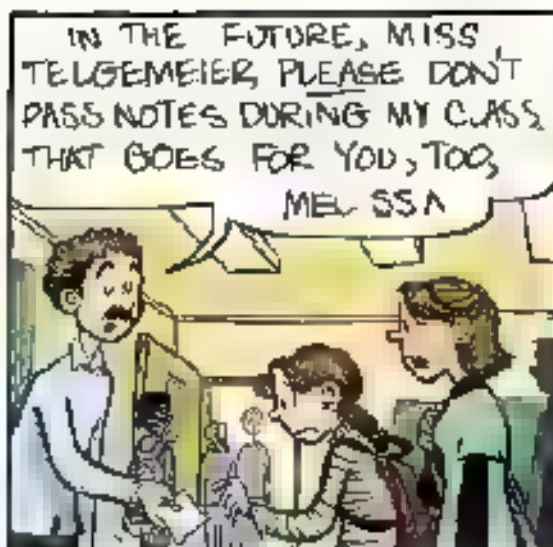








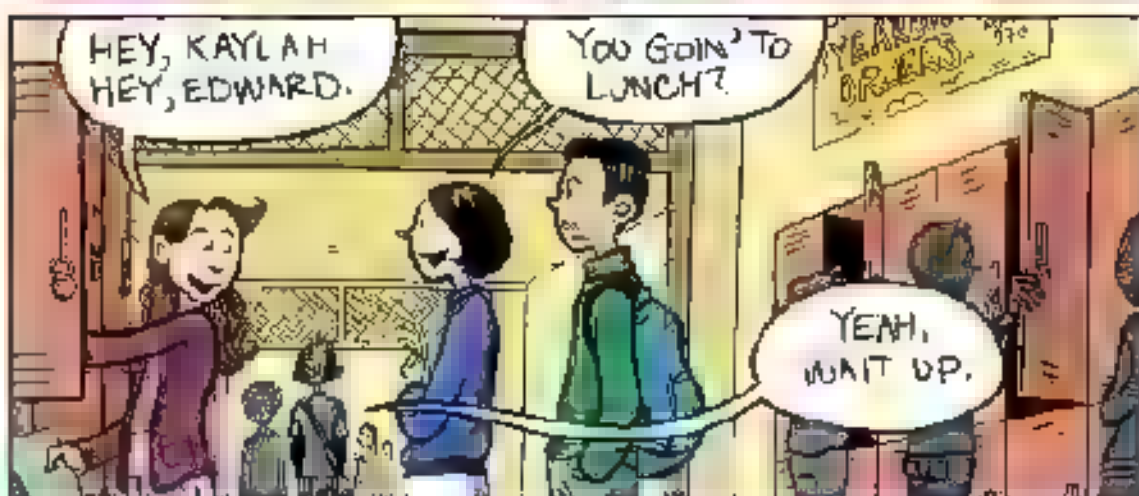




My crush on Sean was old news to everyone else, but it still consumed my thoughts a lot of the time



However, something interesting was starting to happen



Some of my friends had kinda-sorta-maybe boyfriends.

Boys who would hang around with us during lunchtime...



...and who would invite their other friends along



Not all of them were cute, and not all of them were very mature



But they were good for practice flirting





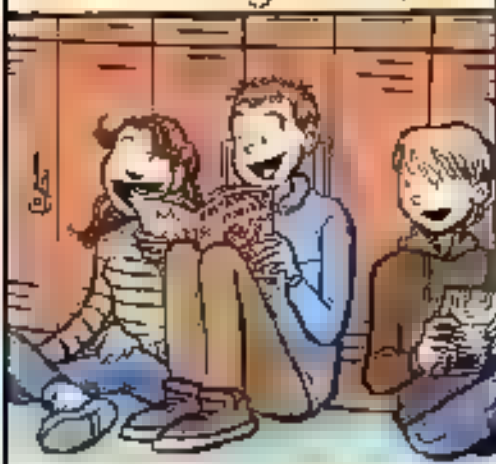
Maybe I liked a few of them, and maybe a few of them liked me... it wasn't that important



None of them were Sean



But boys were good for video game tips.



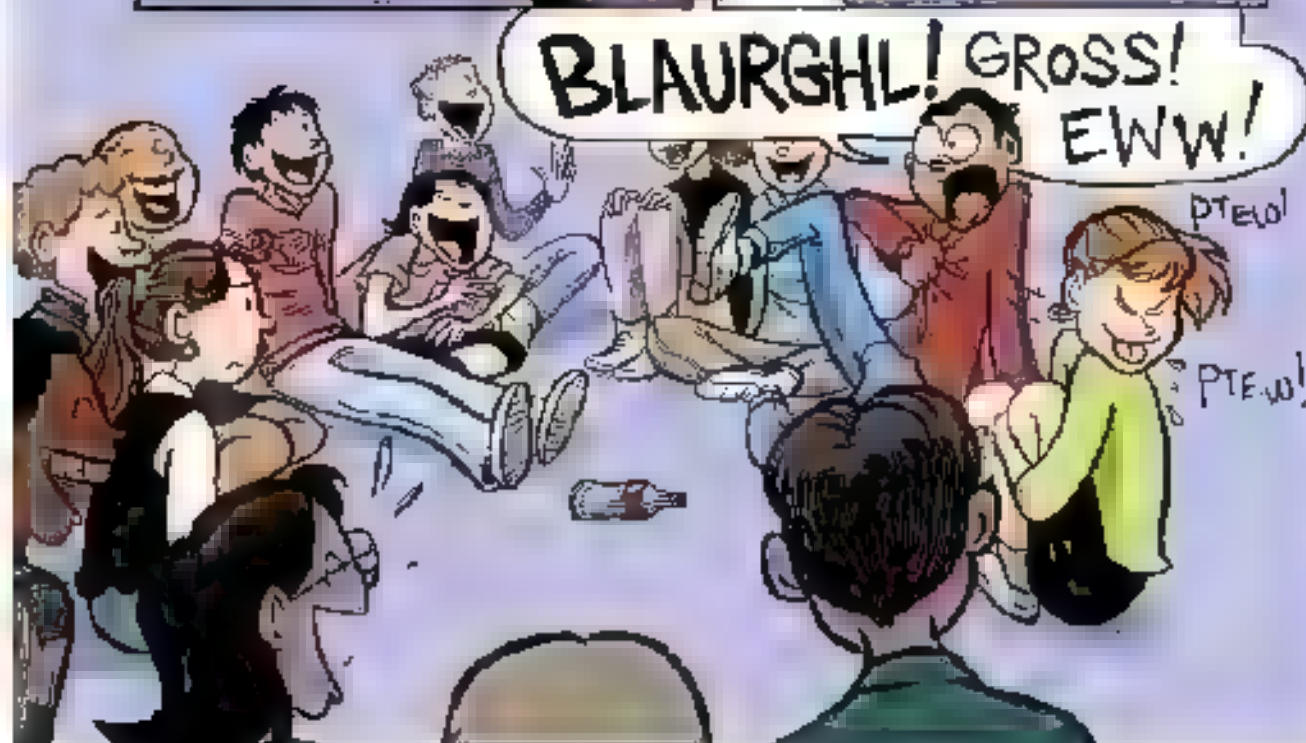
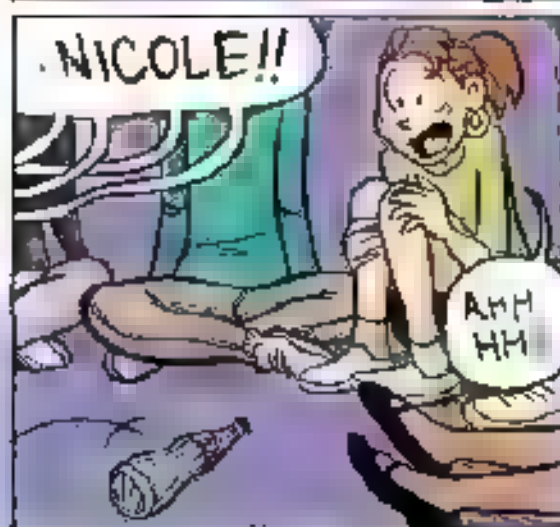
Boys didn't give me any feedback about my appearance



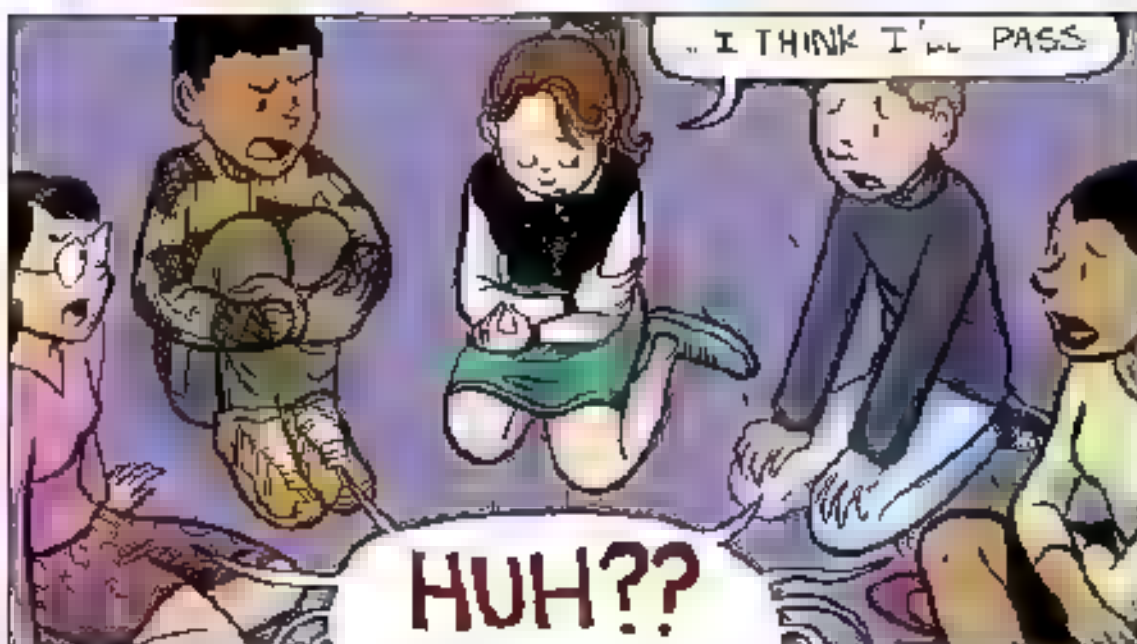
And, they were willing to talk about important issues













THE TRUTH IS ..I WANT  
MY FIRST KISS TO BE  
**PERFECT.**



THE PERFECT GUY, THE PERFECT  
SETTING, THE PERFECT SONG PLAYING.



BUT WHEN I MAgINE ALL OF THOSE THINGS, I  
IMAGINE MYSELF AS BEING PERFECT, TOO

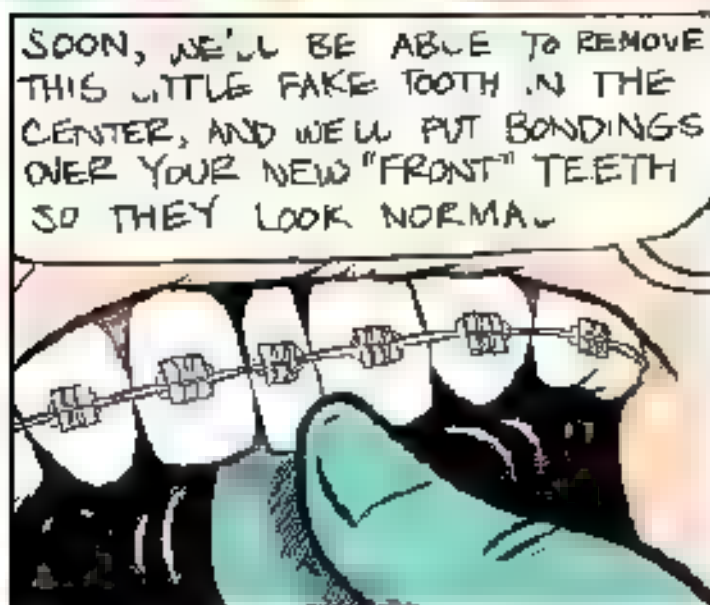
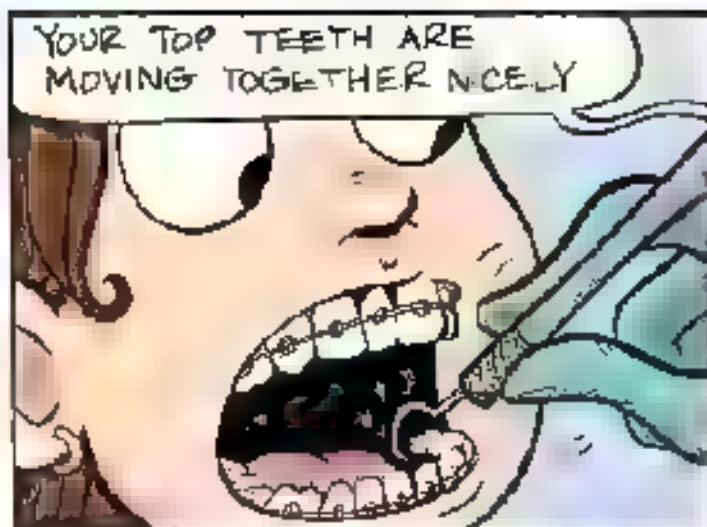


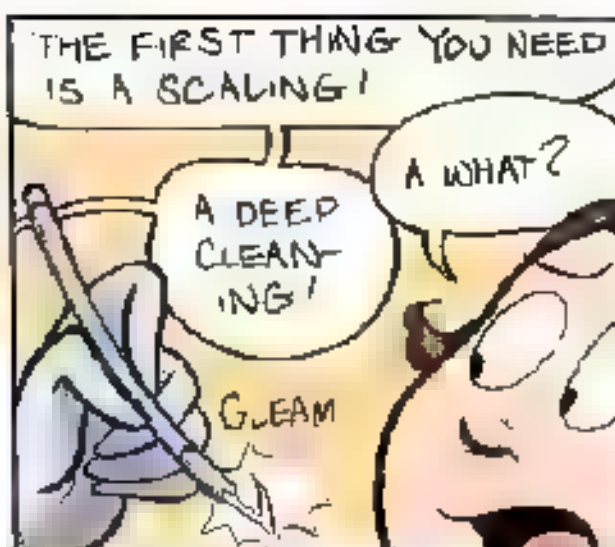
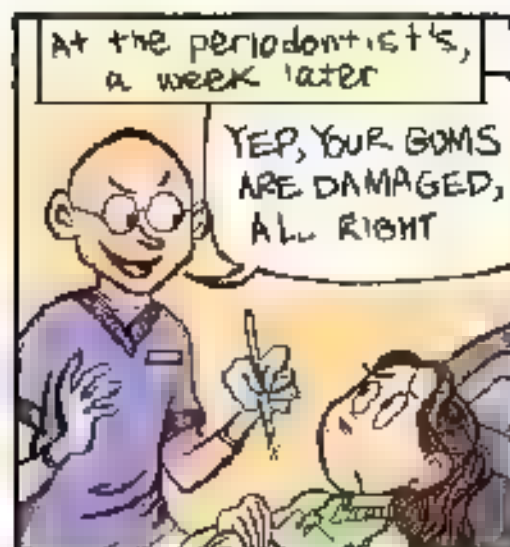
AND I DONT THINK  
THAT'S GOING TO  
HAPPEN ANYTIME  
SOON!





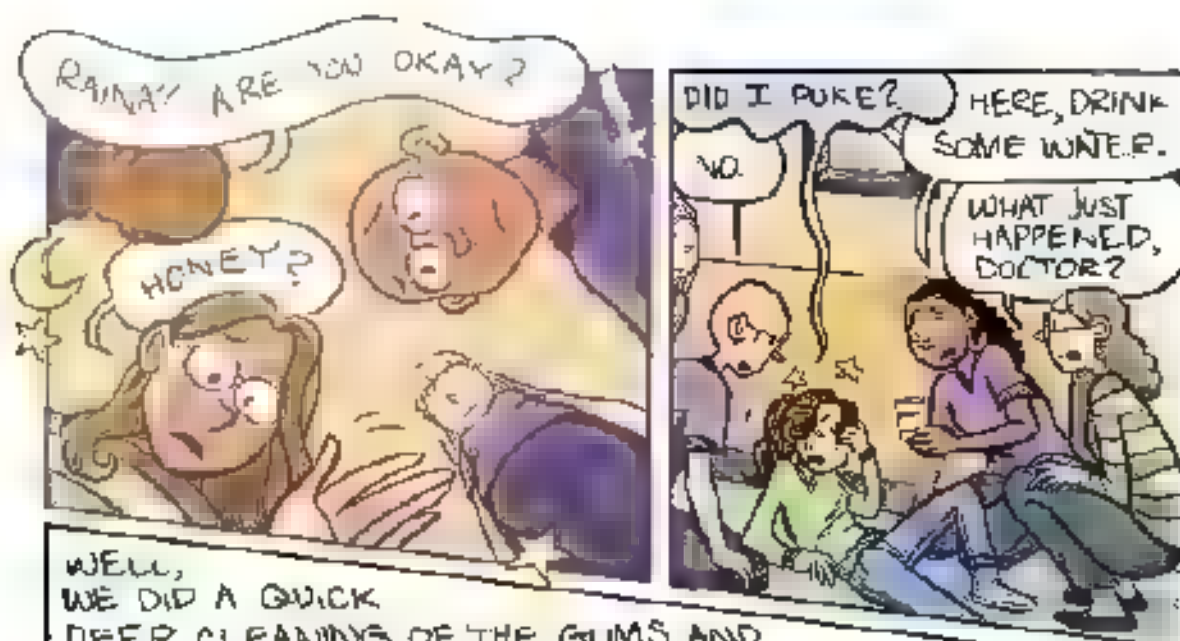










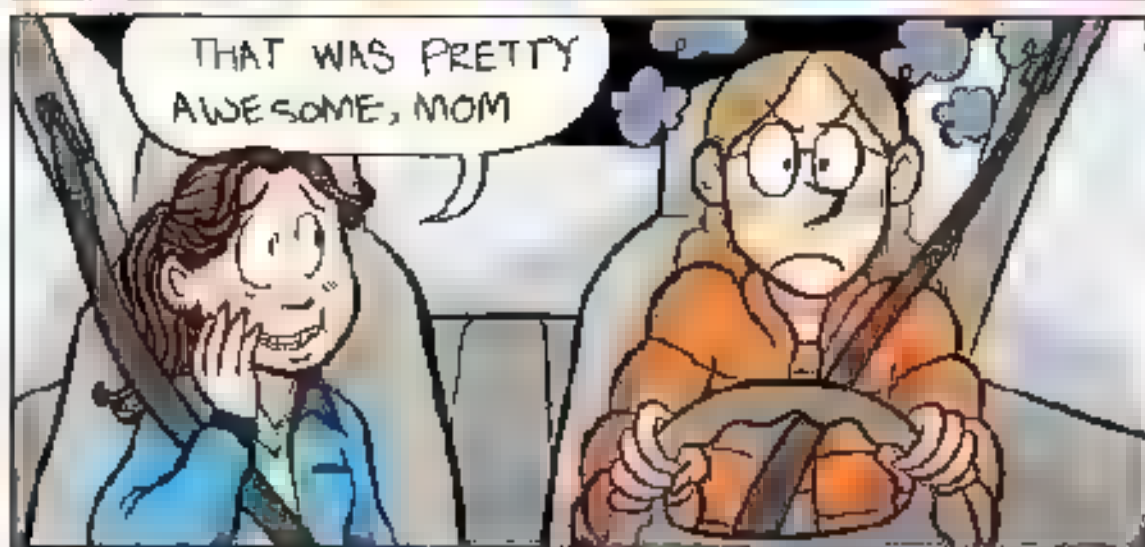
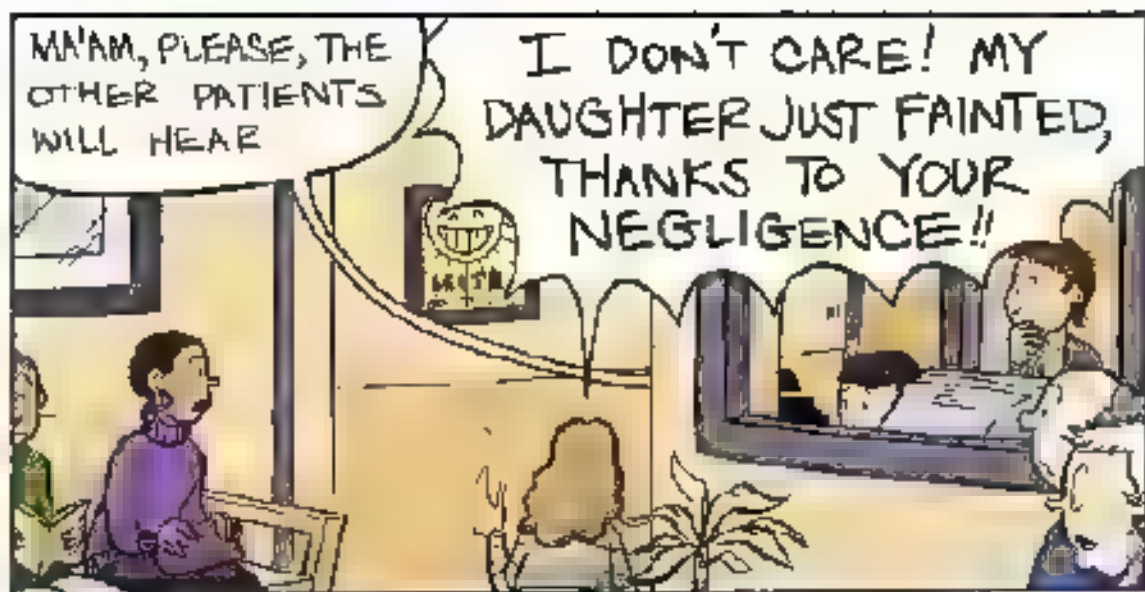


WELL, WE DID A QUICK DEEP CLEANING OF THE GUMS, AND I GUESS WE DIDN'T WAIT LONG ENOUGH FOR THE NOVOCADINE TO WORK, AND WE COULD HAVE GIVEN HER LAUGHING GAS, BUT WE DIDN'T THINK SHE'D NEED--

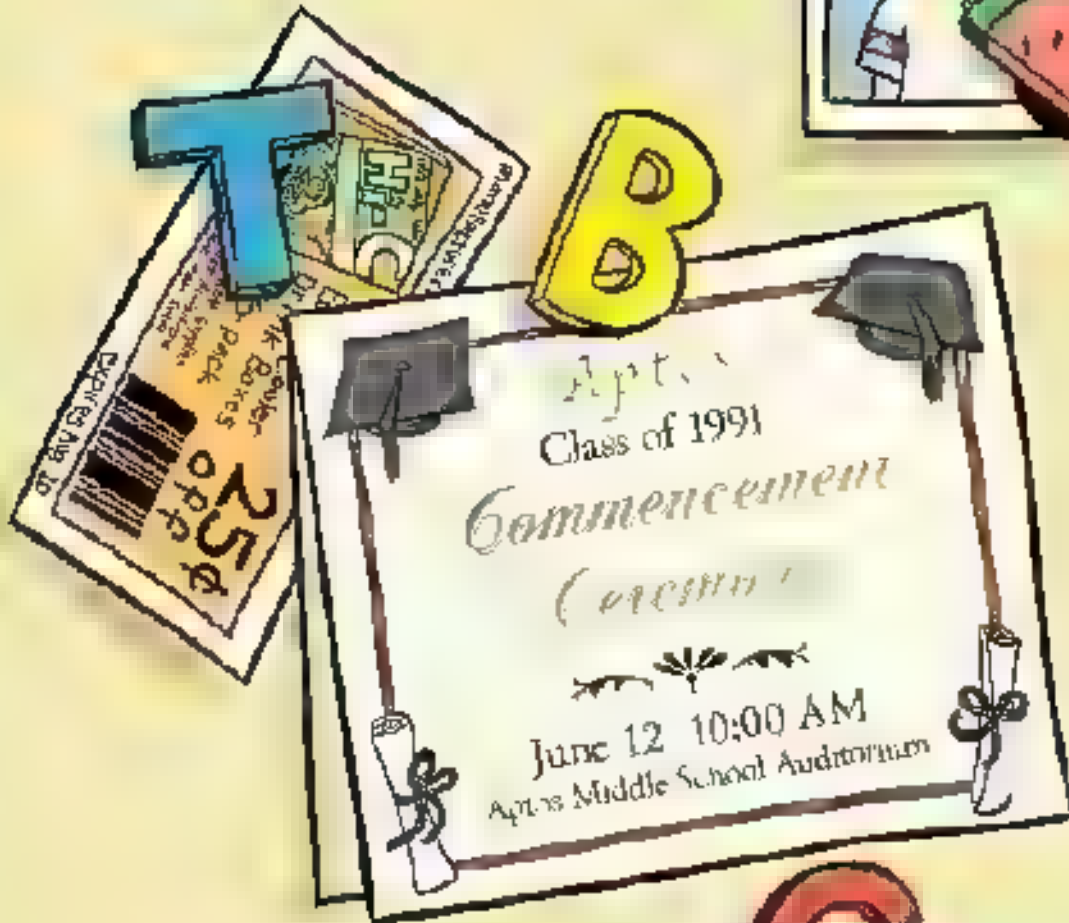
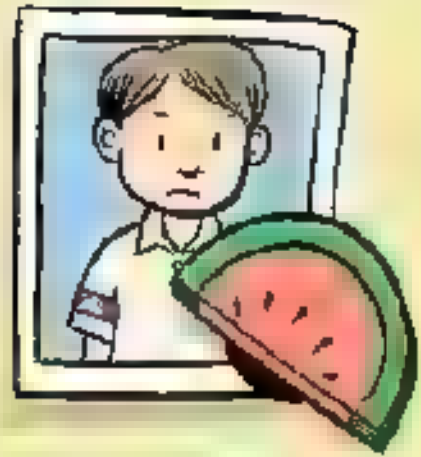


YOU DIDN'T THINK TO ASK ME IF ALL THAT WAS OKAY FIRST?!?





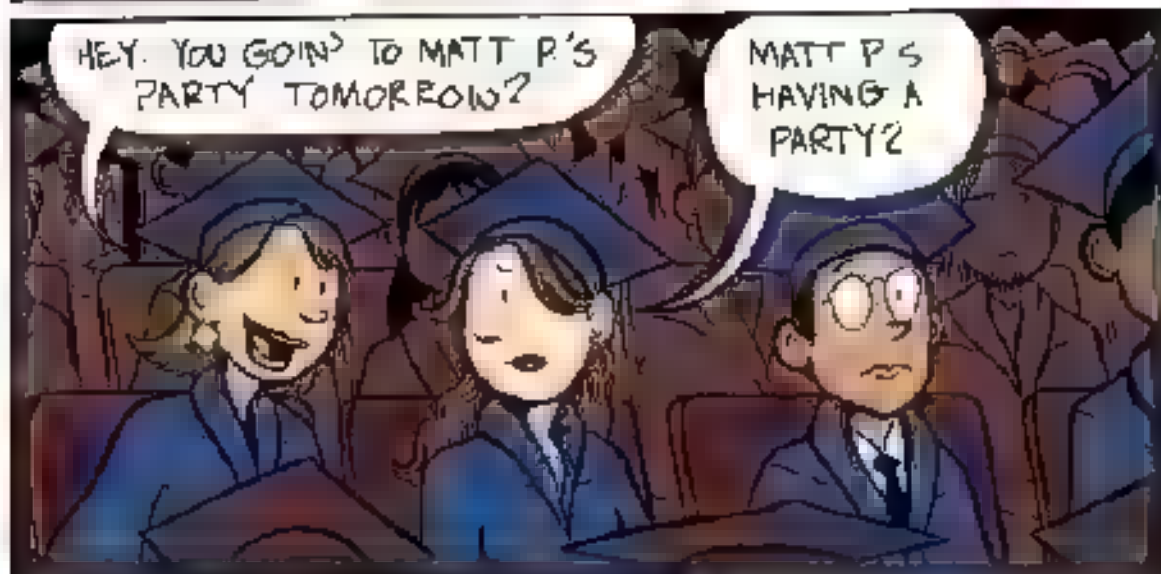
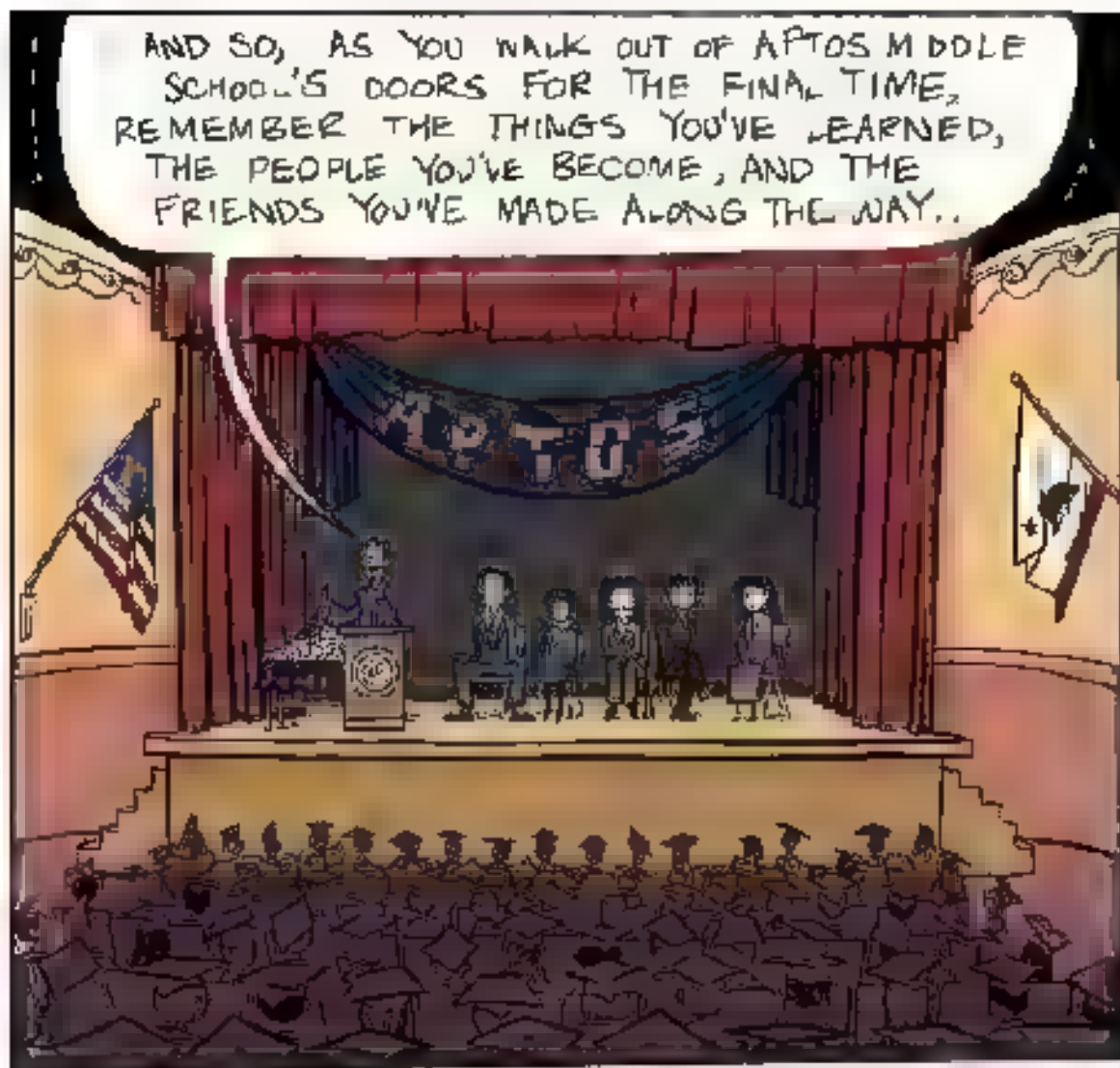


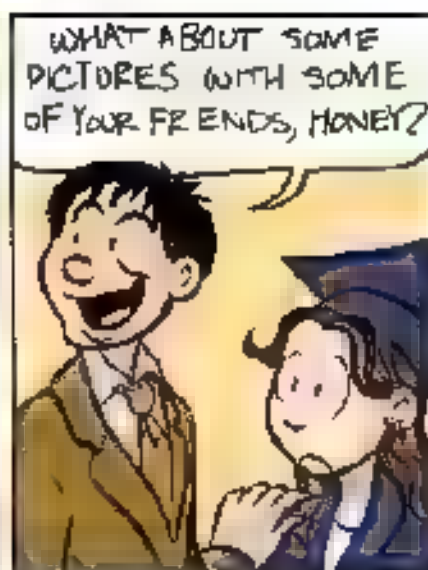


P

G

## CHAPTER SEVEN





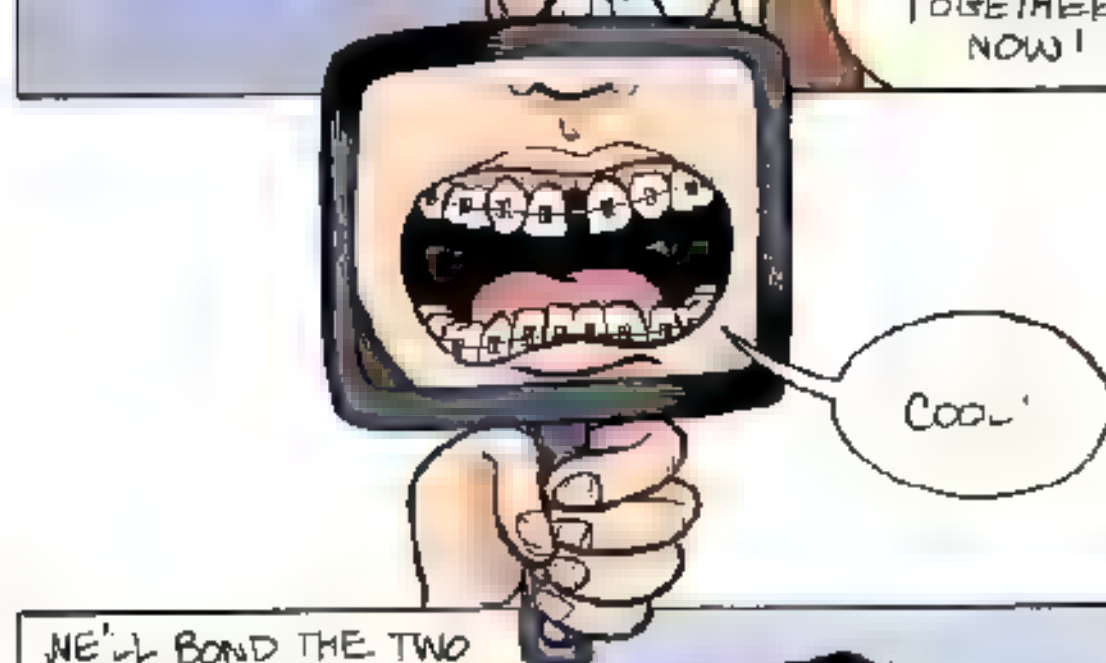


That summer, I was a Girl Scout camp counselor for the last time

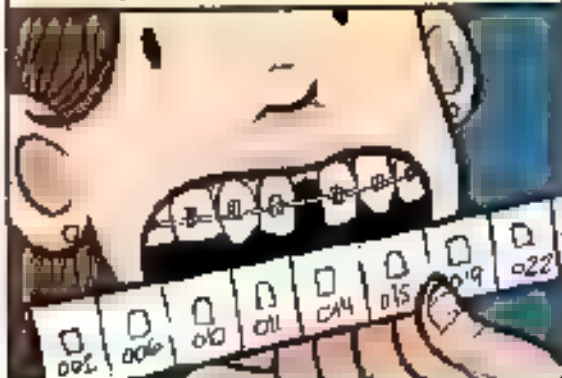


I also sat between my siblings in the car on a couple of long-distance road trips

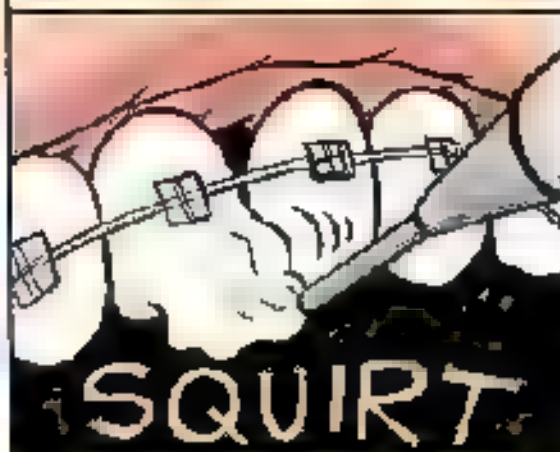




"ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT! THE DENTIST MATCHES THE COLOR OF YOUR TEETH TO THE BONDING MATERIAL."



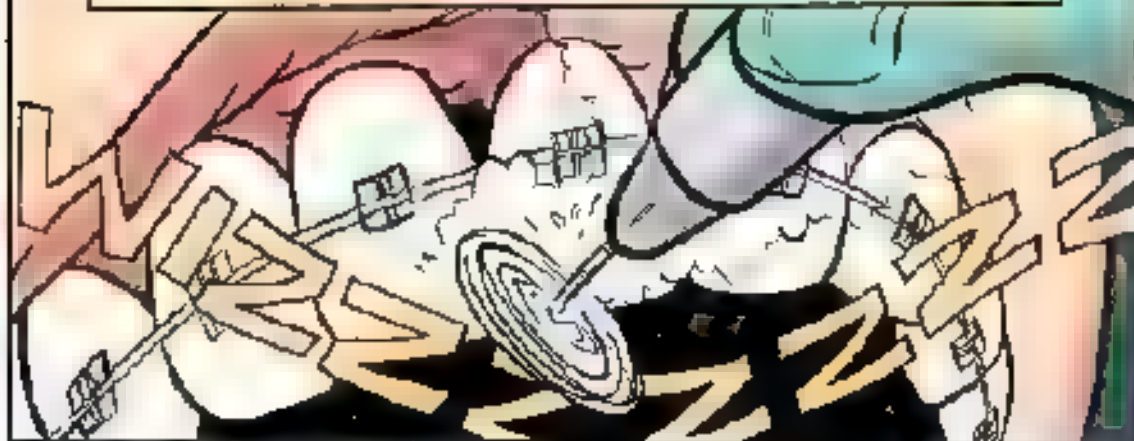
"APPLIES THE BONDING AS A LIQUID TO YOUR TEETH"



" THEN SETS THE LIQUID WITH A SPECIAL LIGHT."

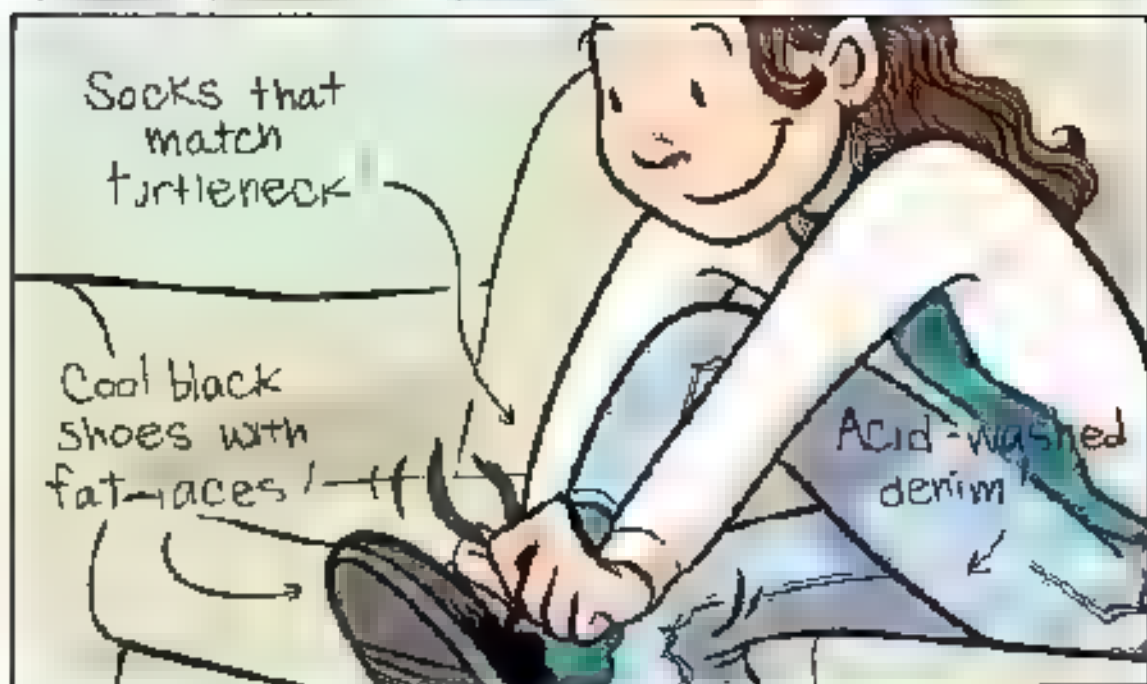


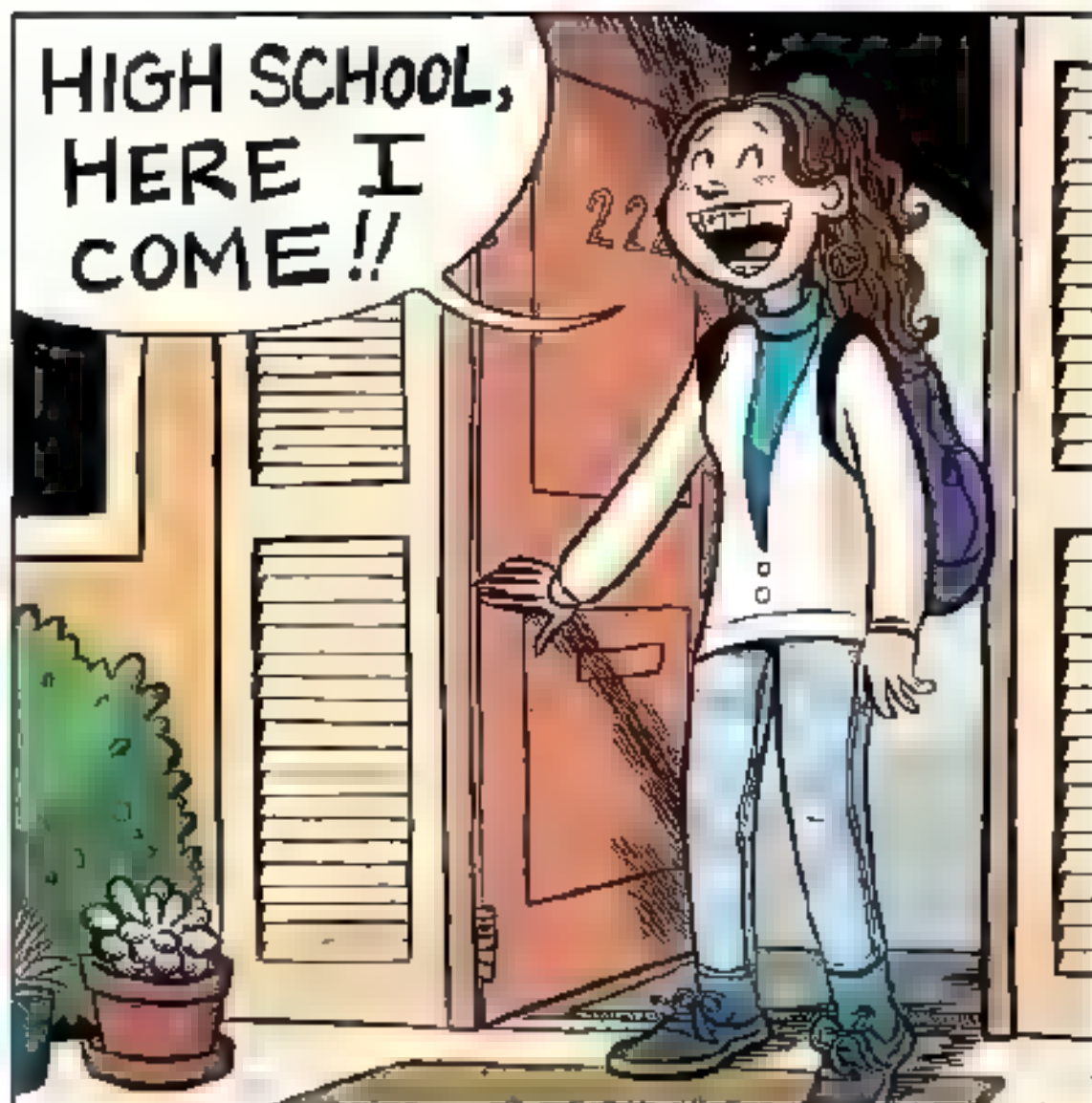
" THEN, HE USES A LITTLE BUZZING TOOL TO SHAPE AND SMOOTH THE BONDING"



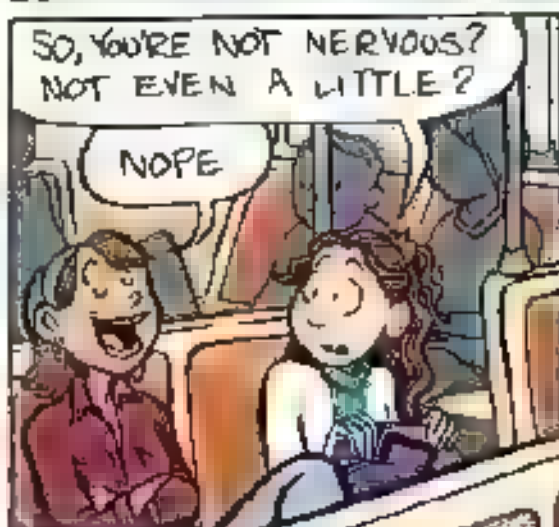


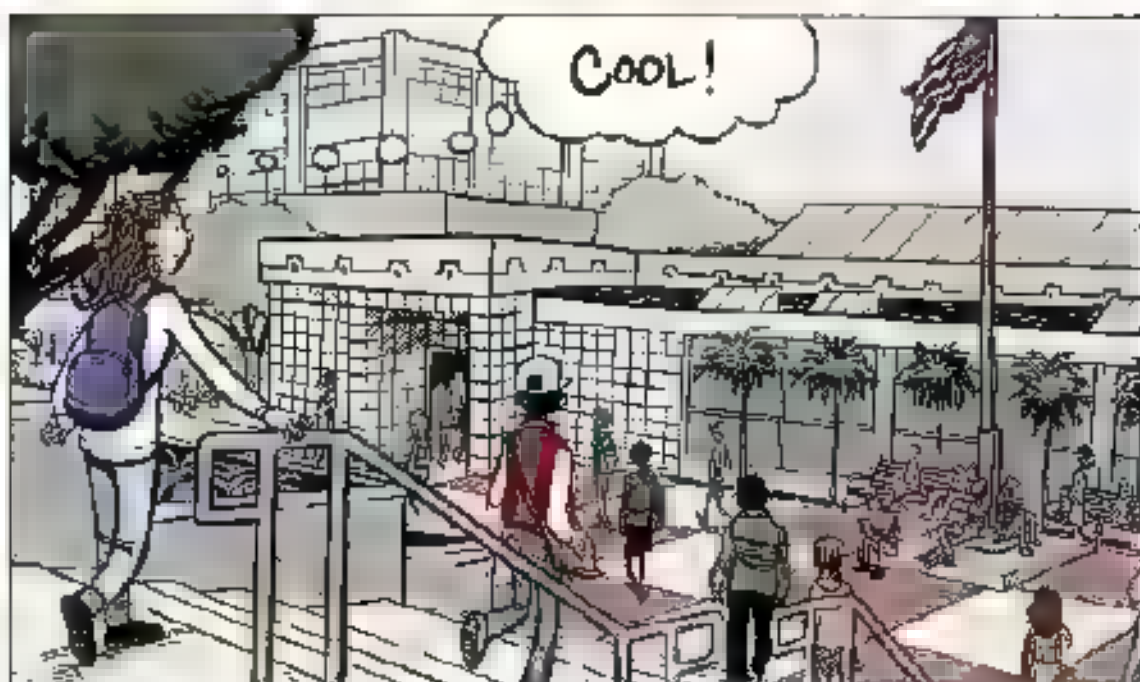
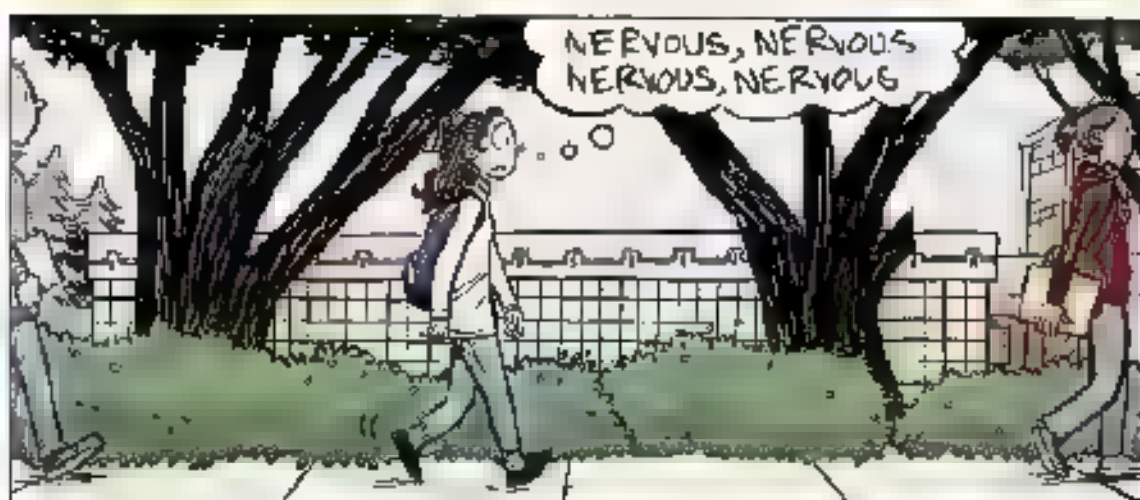


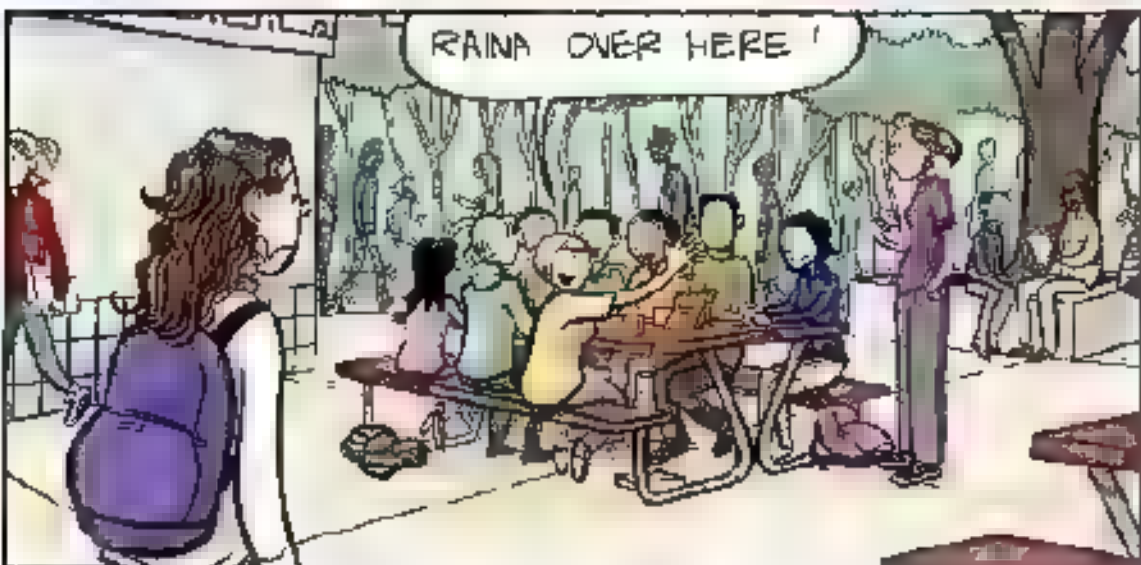




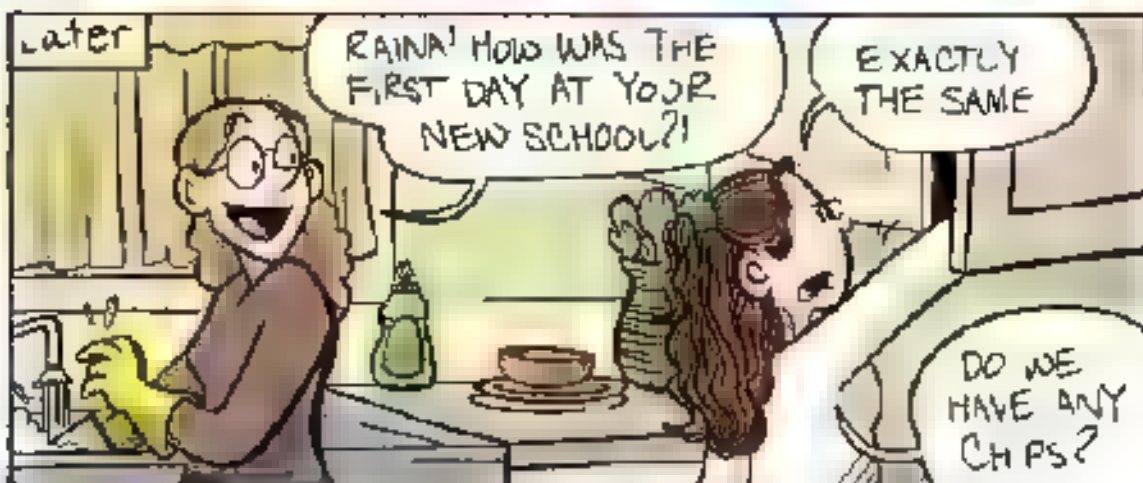
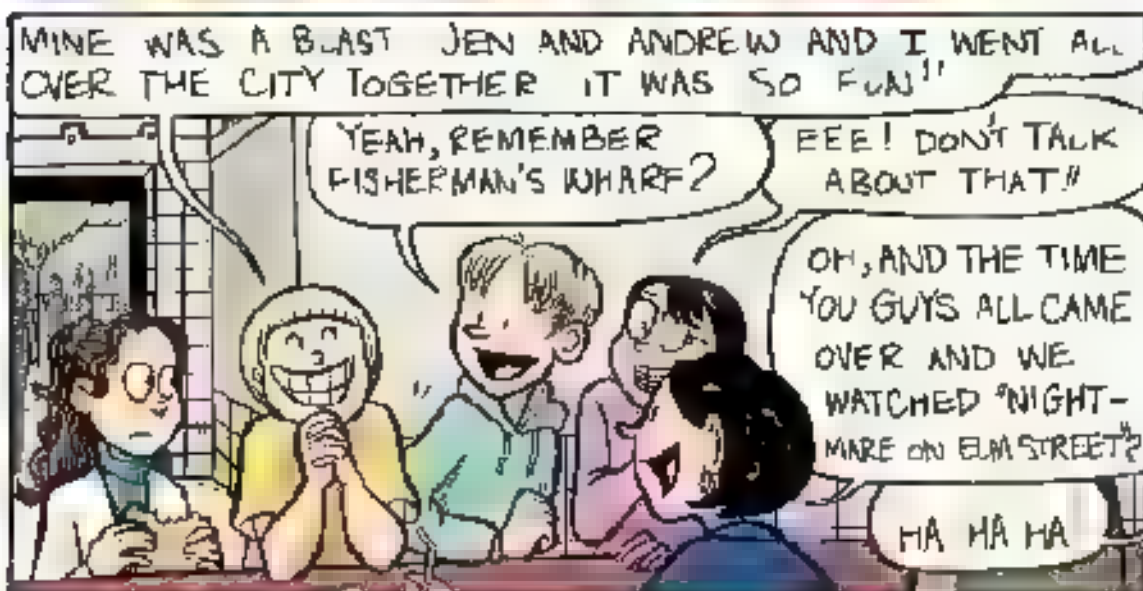
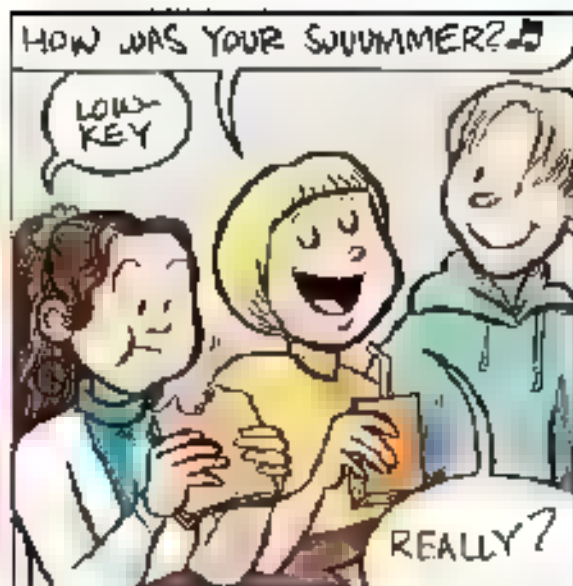














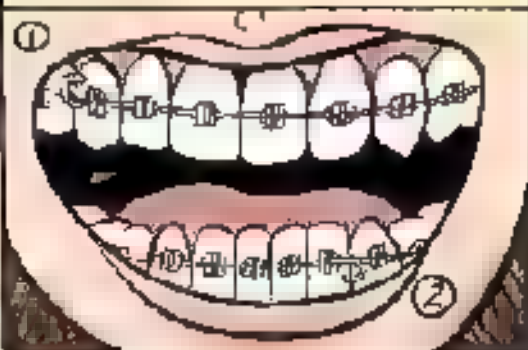
The next stage of my orthodontic treatment was a fairly entertaining one, designed to correct my

## CROSS-BITE

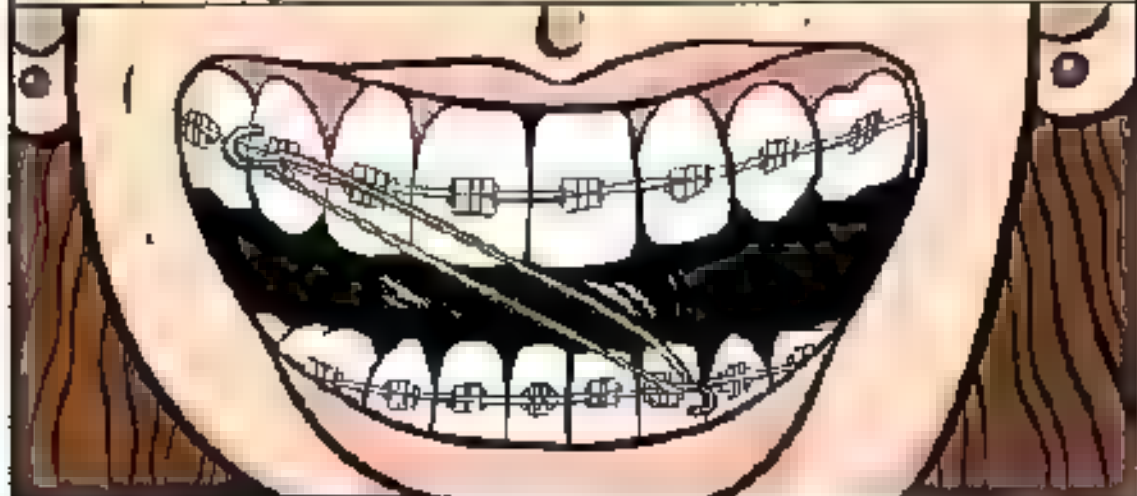


(That's when your top and bottom Jaws don't line up)

To fix this, little hooks are attached to specific brackets on the top and the bottom teeth



and a tiny rubber band is stretched between them.



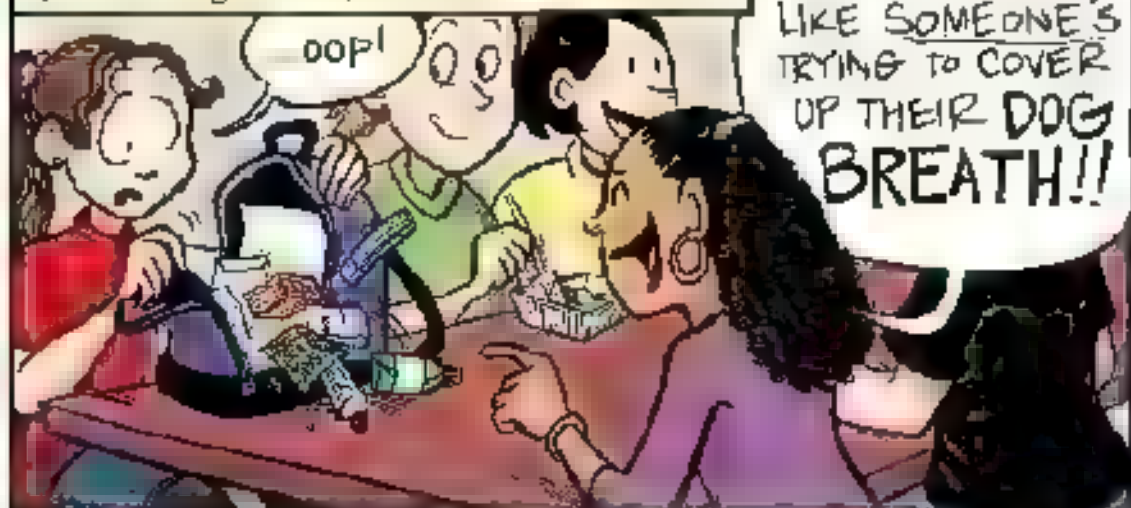


So, my rubber bands  
joined the contents  
of my backpack

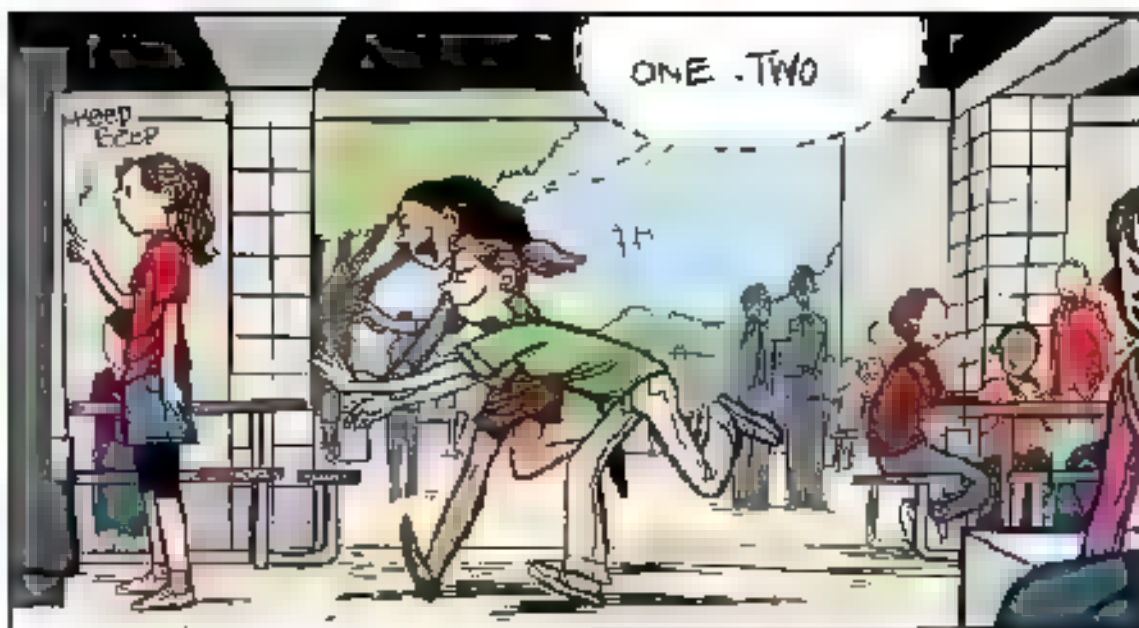


Along with travel toothbrush and paste,  
dental wax, floss, floss-threaders, a  
little box of toothpicks, and a tiny  
bottle of mouthwash

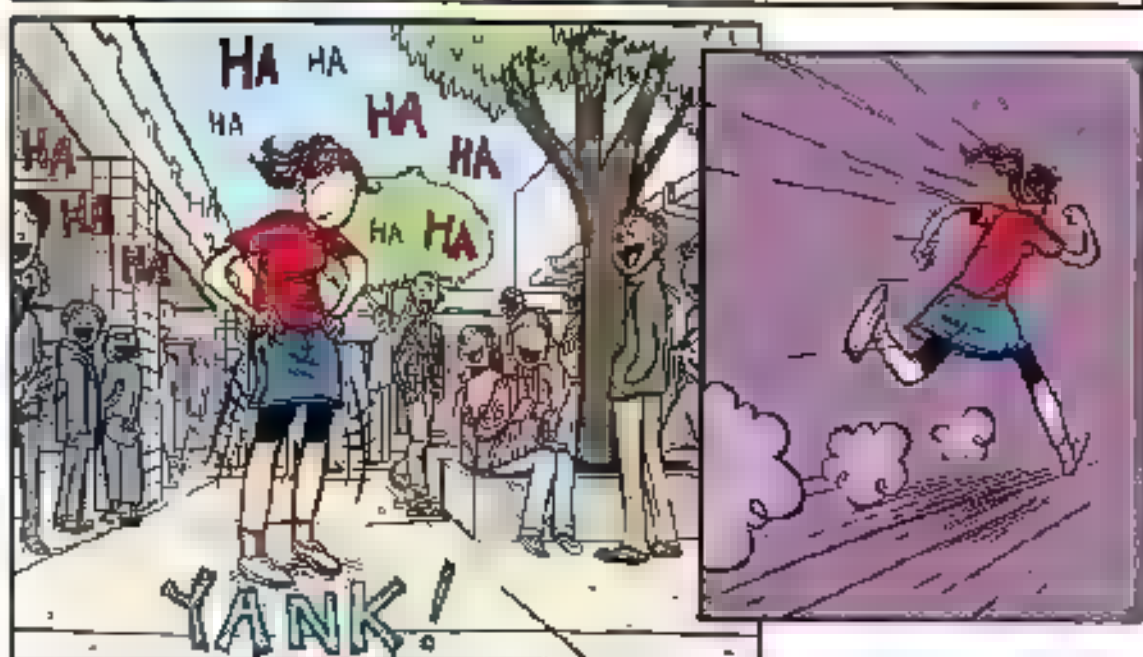
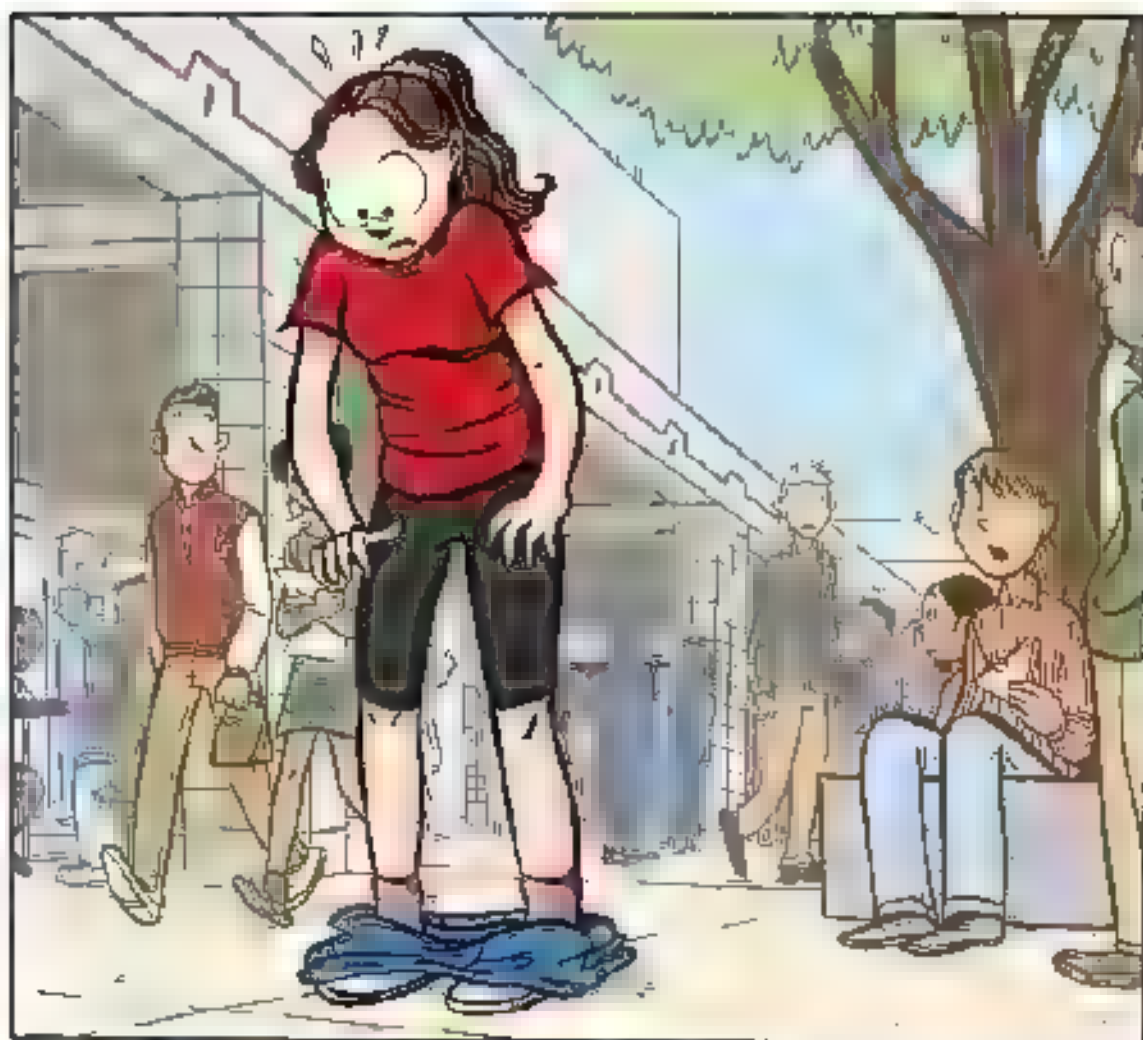
It was quite the spectacle when I  
went to get a pencil or whatever

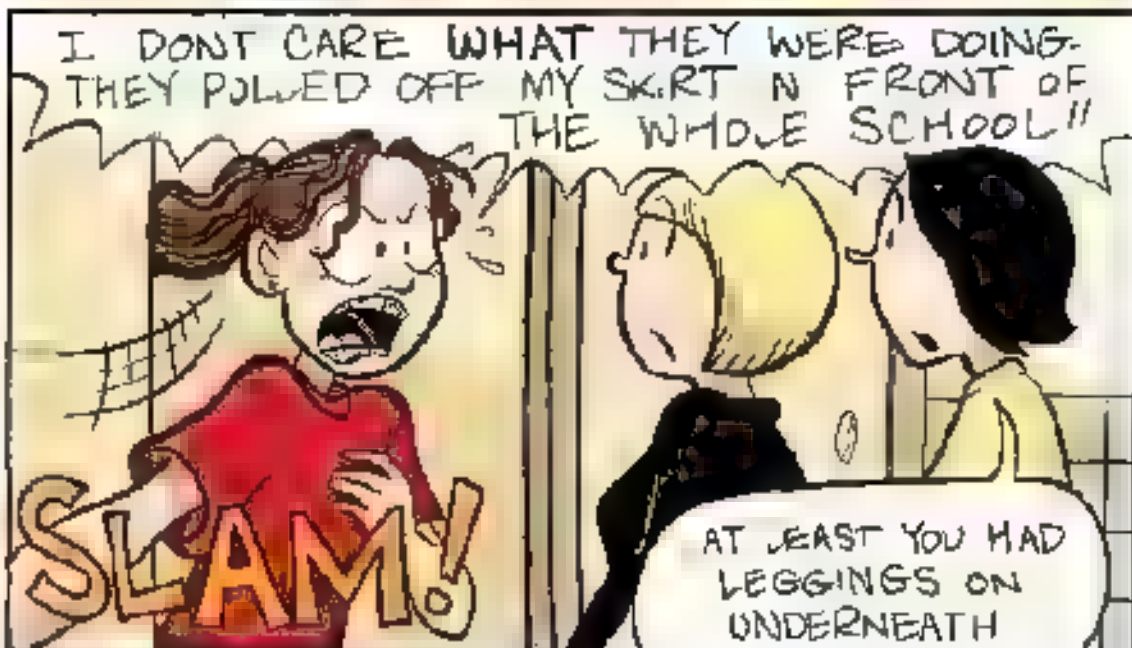


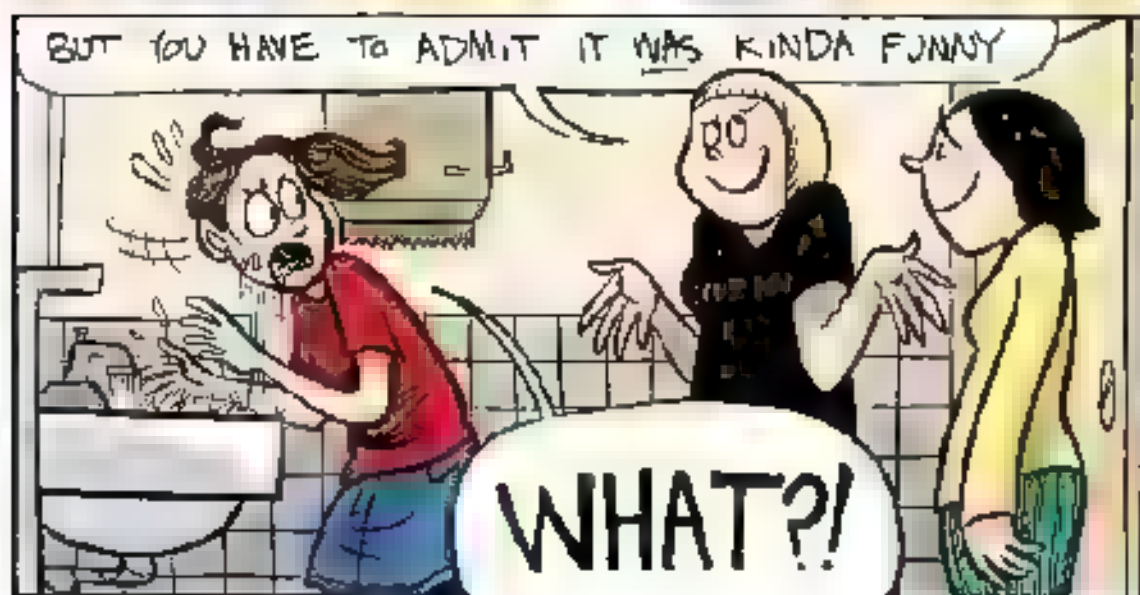
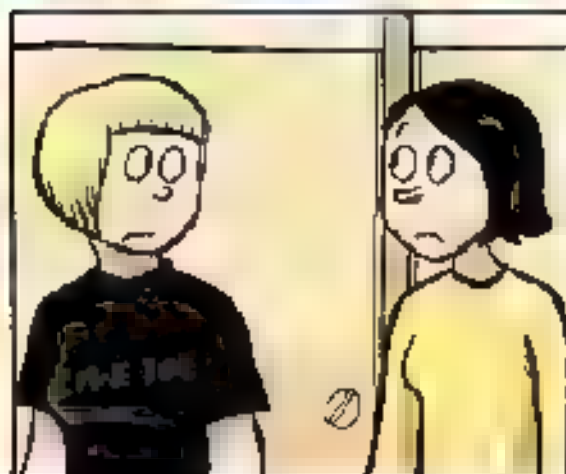
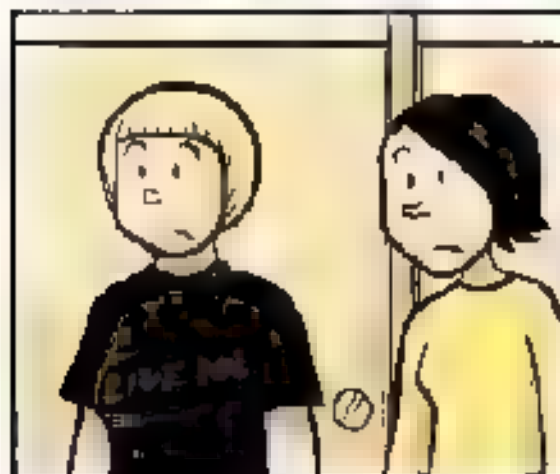














I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS.  
YOU EXPECT ME TO LAUGH  
OFF GETTING PANTSED  
IN THE COURTYARD?



NO, BUT

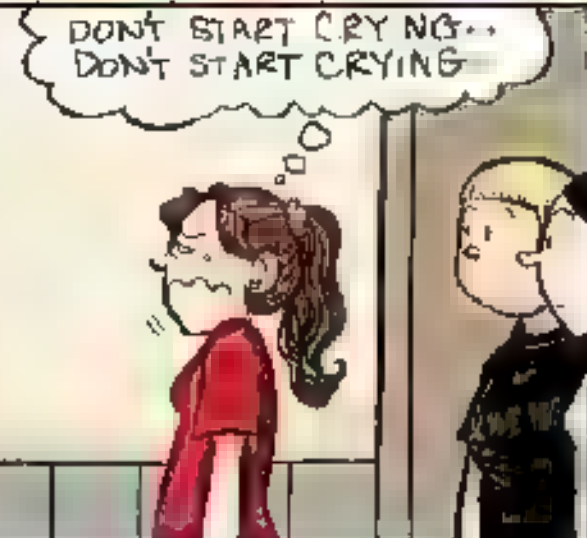
FORGET T. NONE OF YOU  
GUYS RESPECTS ME. I'VE  
HAD ENOO ----\*



HEE. HEE  
UH, HI!

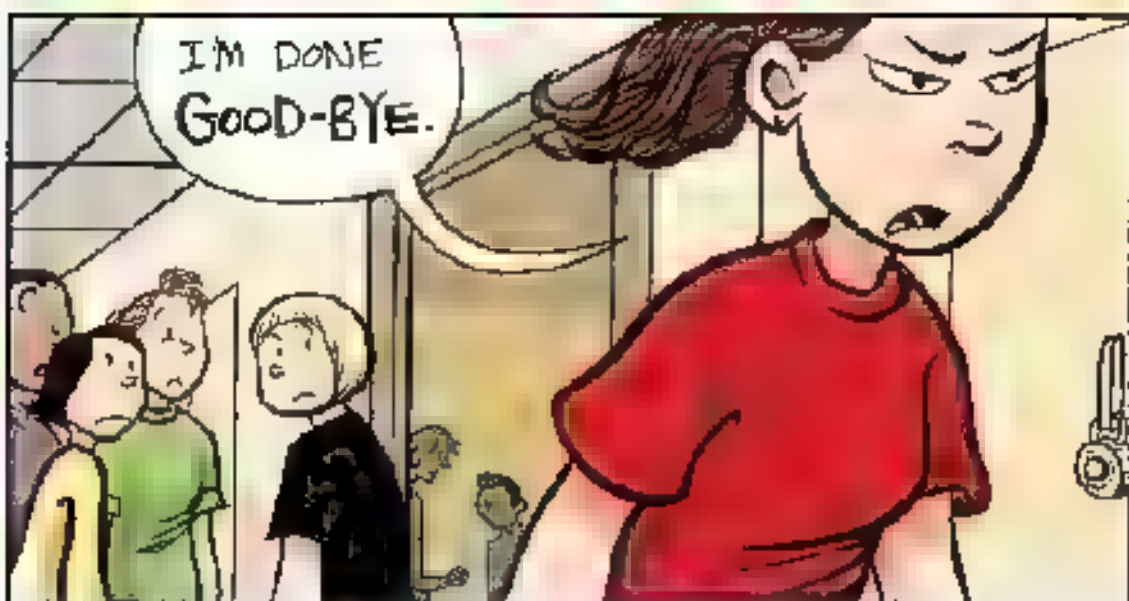


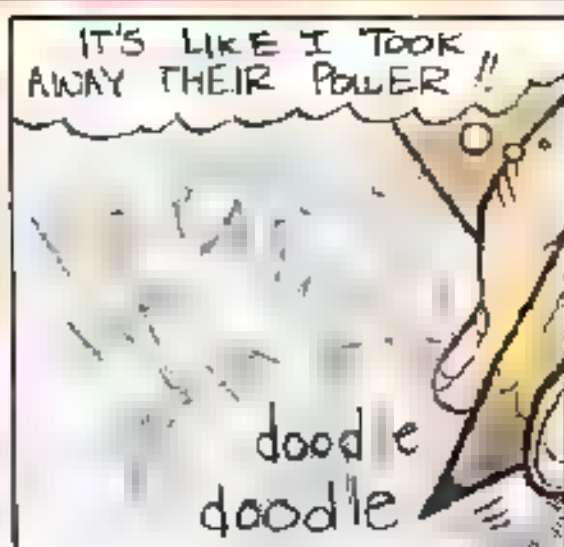
DON'T START CRYING...  
DON'T START CRYING



ARE THEY STILL WAITING  
FOR ME TO START CRYING?

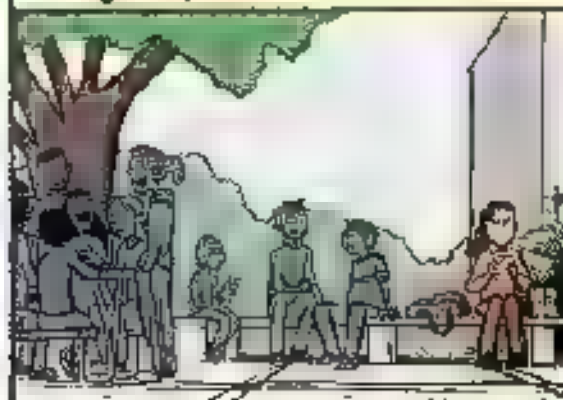






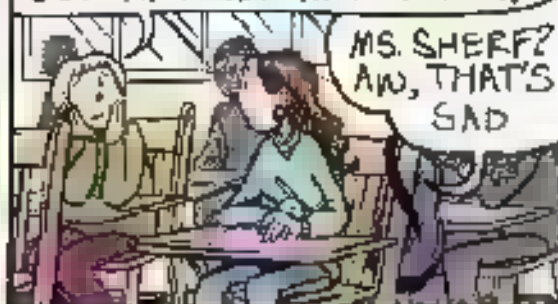


After that, I essentially 'broke up' with my old group of friends.



It was an amicable split—we still said hello in the halls, and acknowledged our shared pasts.

HEY DID YOU HEAR THAT OUR OLD ART TEACHER DIED?

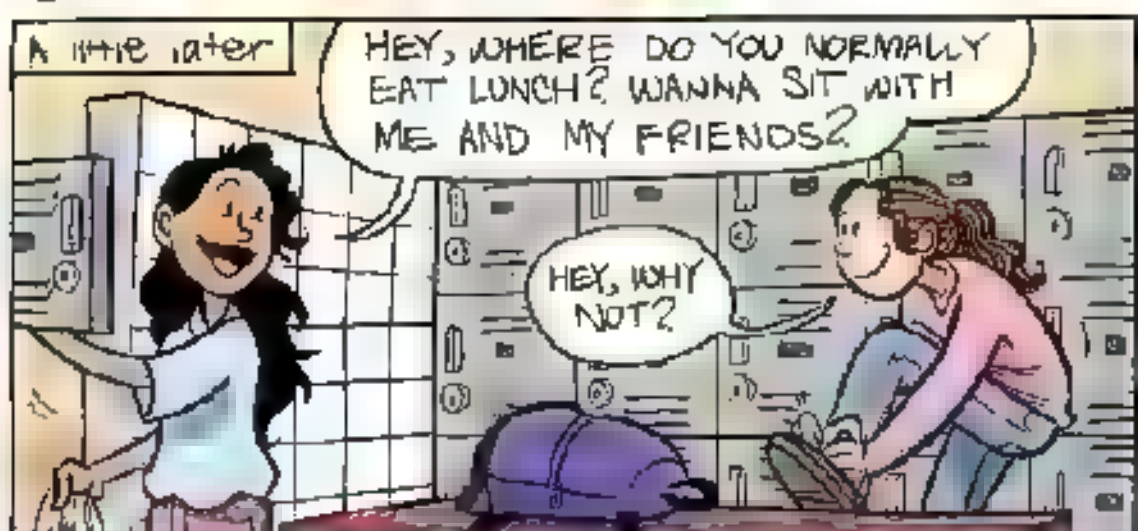
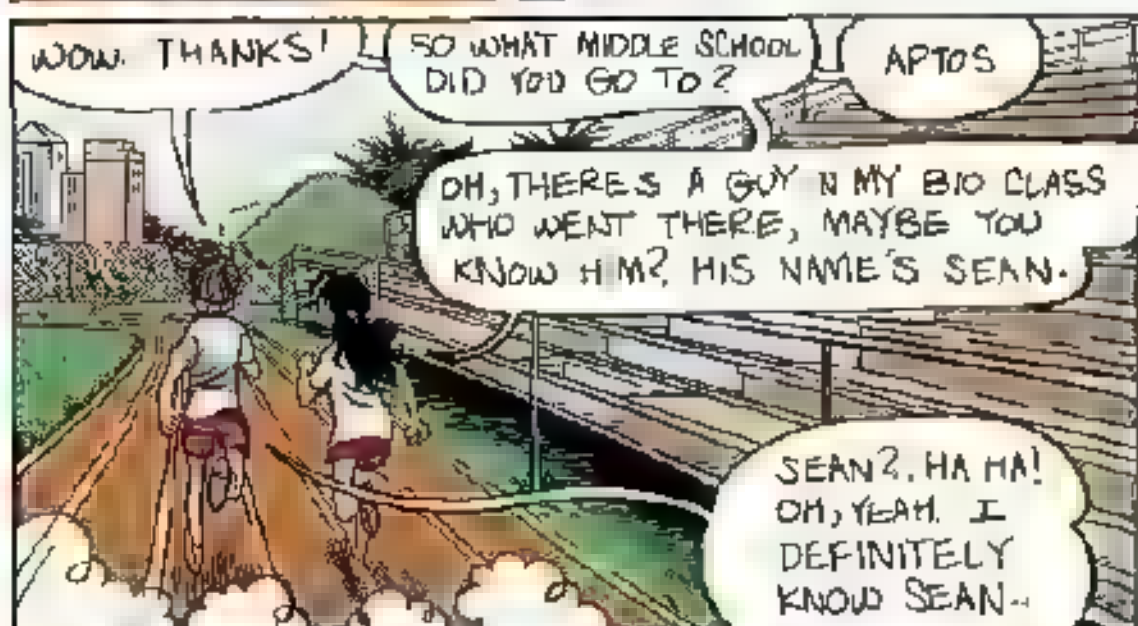


I was a little lonely now and then, but it didn't bother me.



I was happy to take life at my very own pace



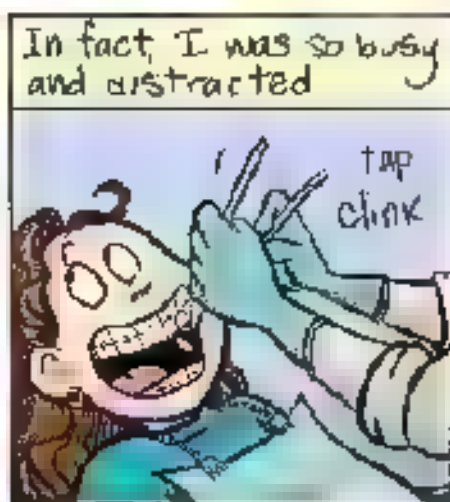
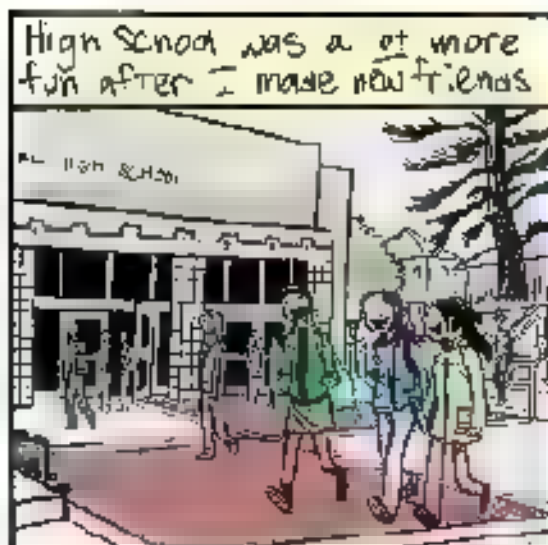








## CHAPTER EIGHT



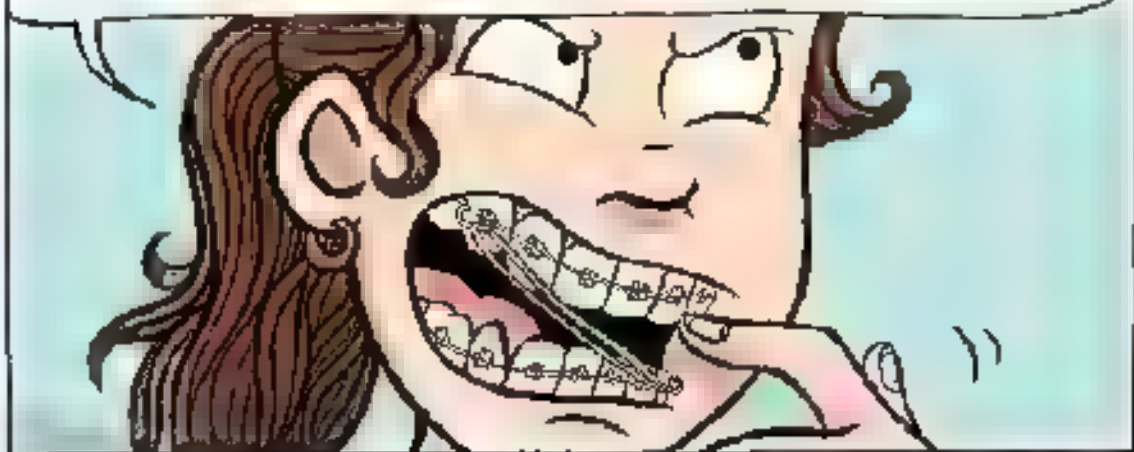
GETTING MY BRACES OFF!  
YESSS I CAN'T WAIT!



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'VE  
HAD THEM ON FOR THIS LONG!



BUT DO MY TEETH REALLY LOOK FIXED? THEY  
STILL SEEM A LITTLE FUNKY-LOOKING TO ME



I'M SURE ONCE THE  
BRACES ARE ACTUALLY  
OFF, THEY'LL LOOK GREAT



I'M SURE YOU'RE JUST  
SAYING THAT 'CAUSE  
YOU'RE MY MOTHER





The big day finally arrived, a few weeks into my sophomore year.

## GETTIN' MY BRACES OFF



FIRST, WE'LL REMOVE  
ALL YOUR WIRES..

I'LL NEVER BE  
POKED AGAIN!

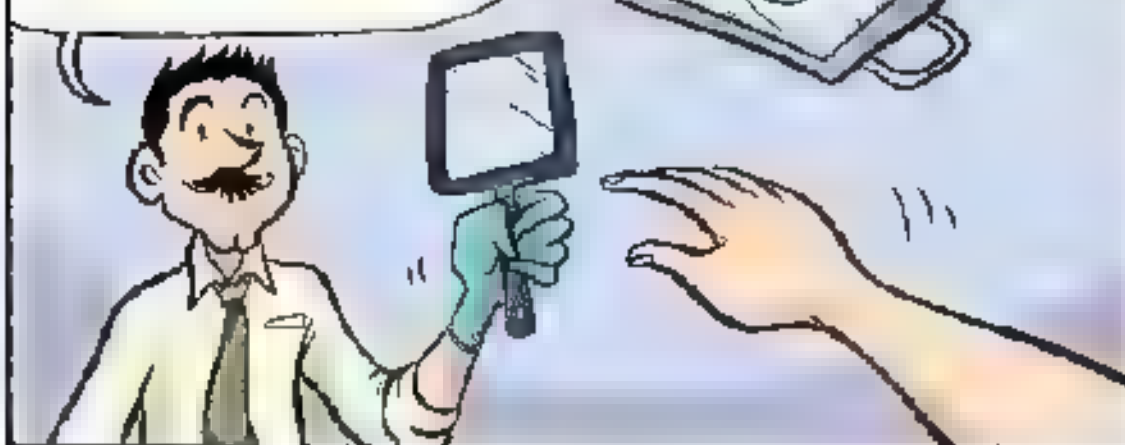


THEN WE PULL OFF ALL  
YOUR BRACKETS!



FINALLY, A QUICK  
POLISHING OF YOUR TEETH

READY TO SEE YOUR  
BRAND-NEW SMILE?

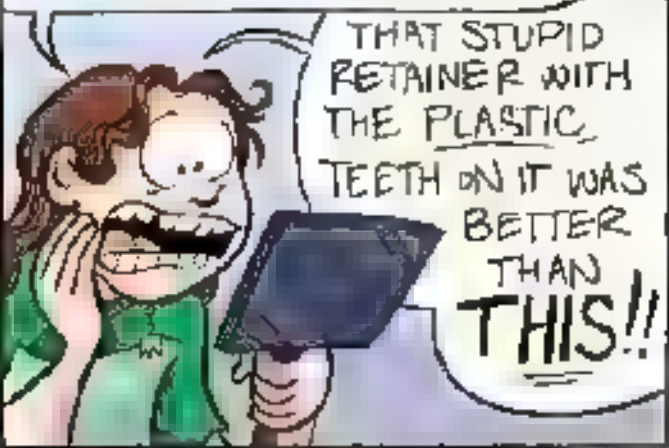




THEY DON'T LOOK THAT  
BAD YOU'RE JUST NOT  
USED TO THEM YET

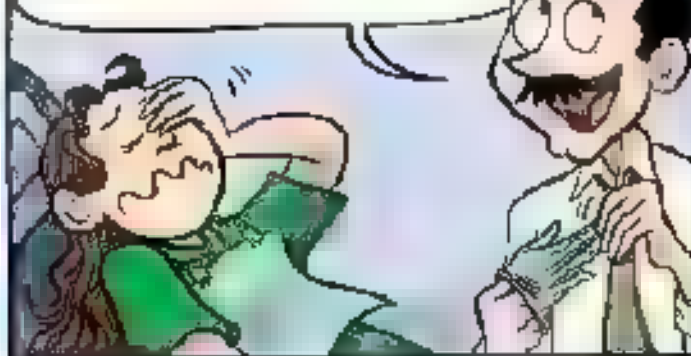


BUT THEY LOOK GREENISH!  
AND THEY'RE MISSHAPEN!



THAT STUPID  
RETAINER WITH  
THE PLASTIC  
TEETH ON IT WAS  
BETTER  
THAN  
**THIS!!**

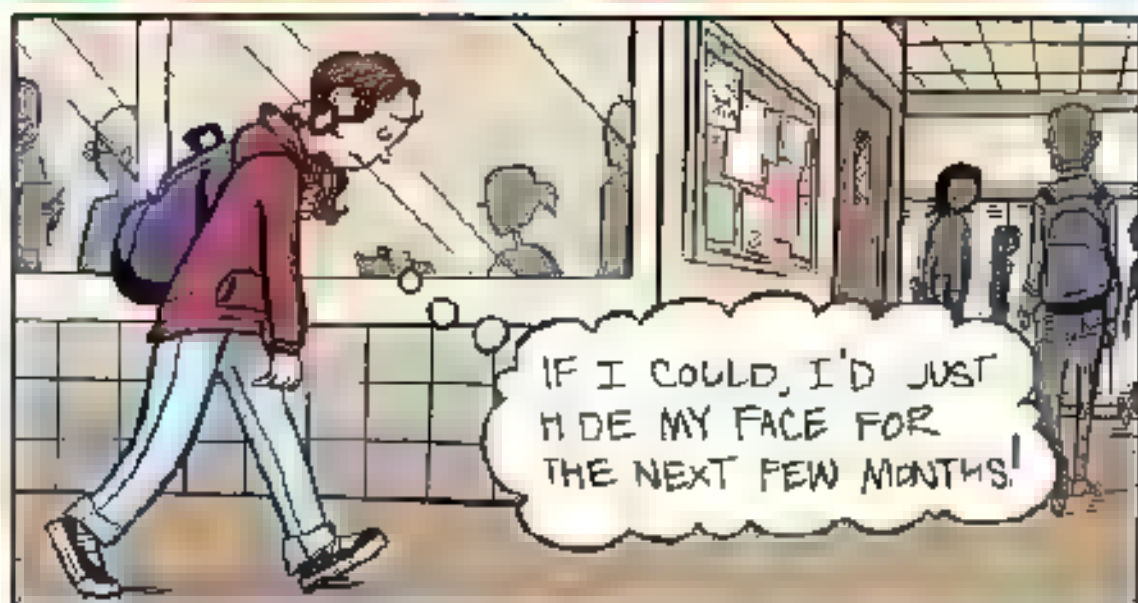
WE'VE DONE THE BEST WE  
COULD... CONSIDERING WE  
BASICALLY REARRANGED  
YOUR WHOLE MOUTH..

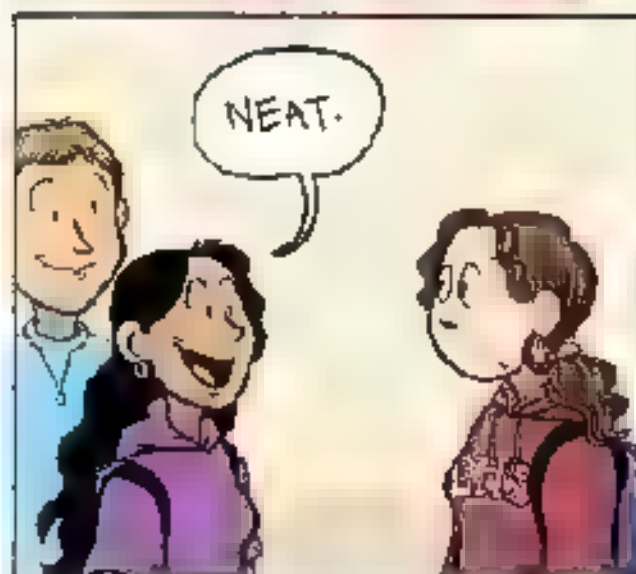
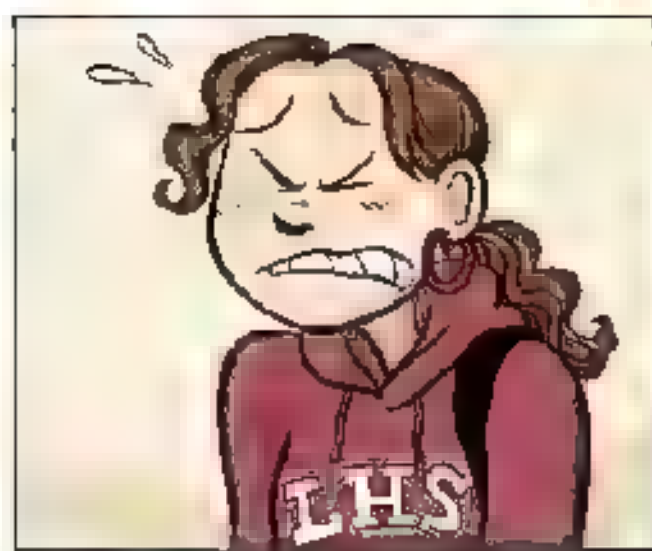
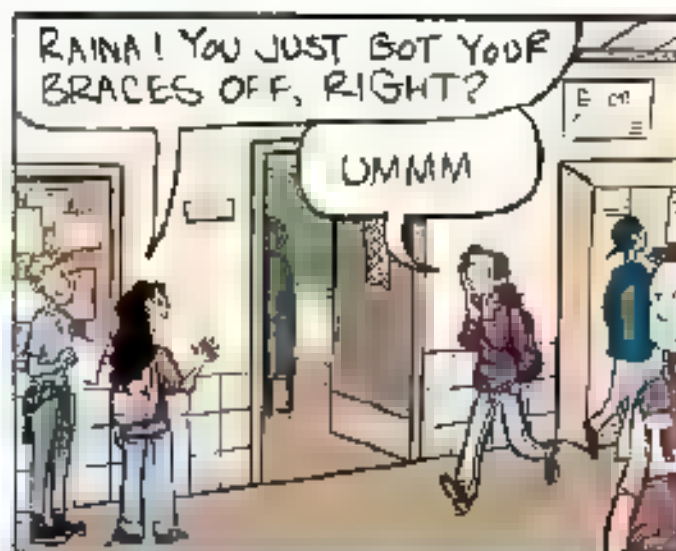


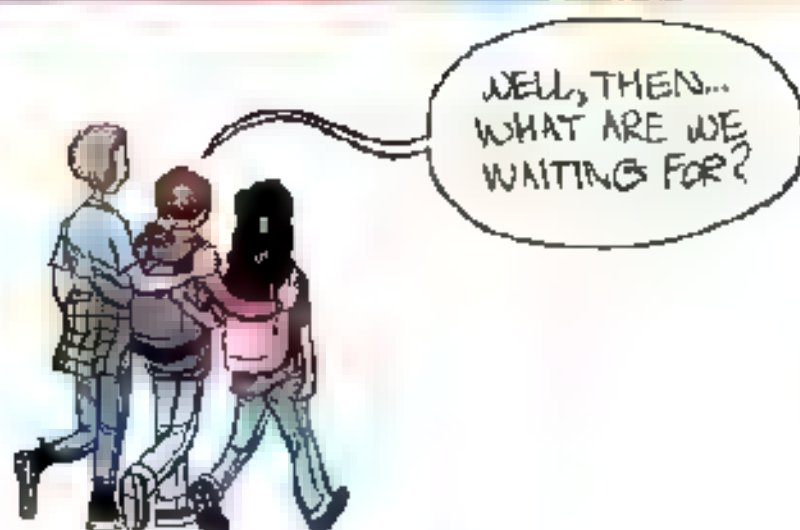
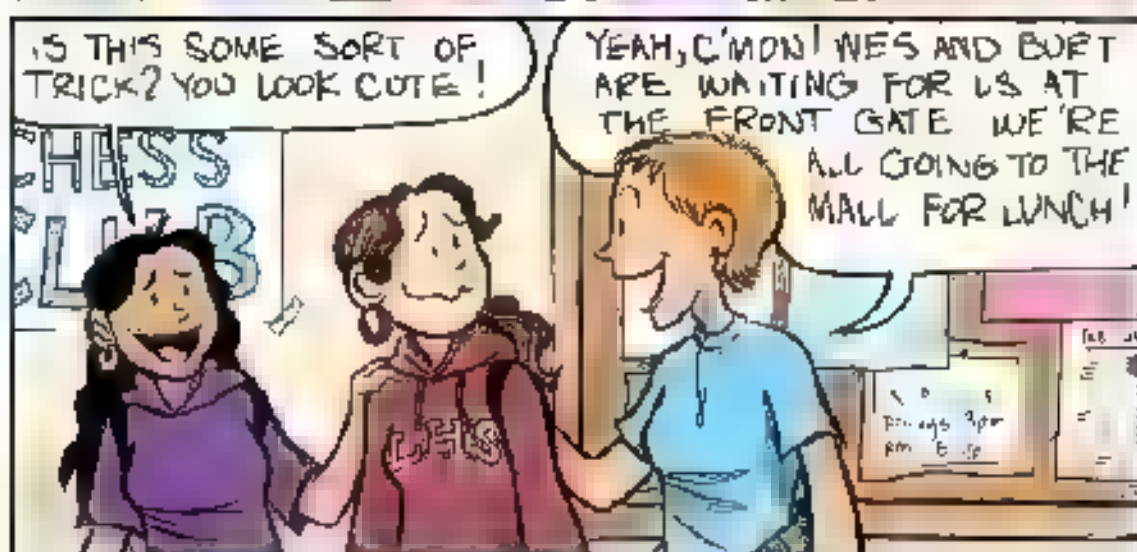
ANYWAY, I HAVE  
SOMETHING THAT  
WILL CHEER YOU UP.















My life didn't magically turn perfect after that



I didn't "get the guy," as they say. But Sean was always friendly to me



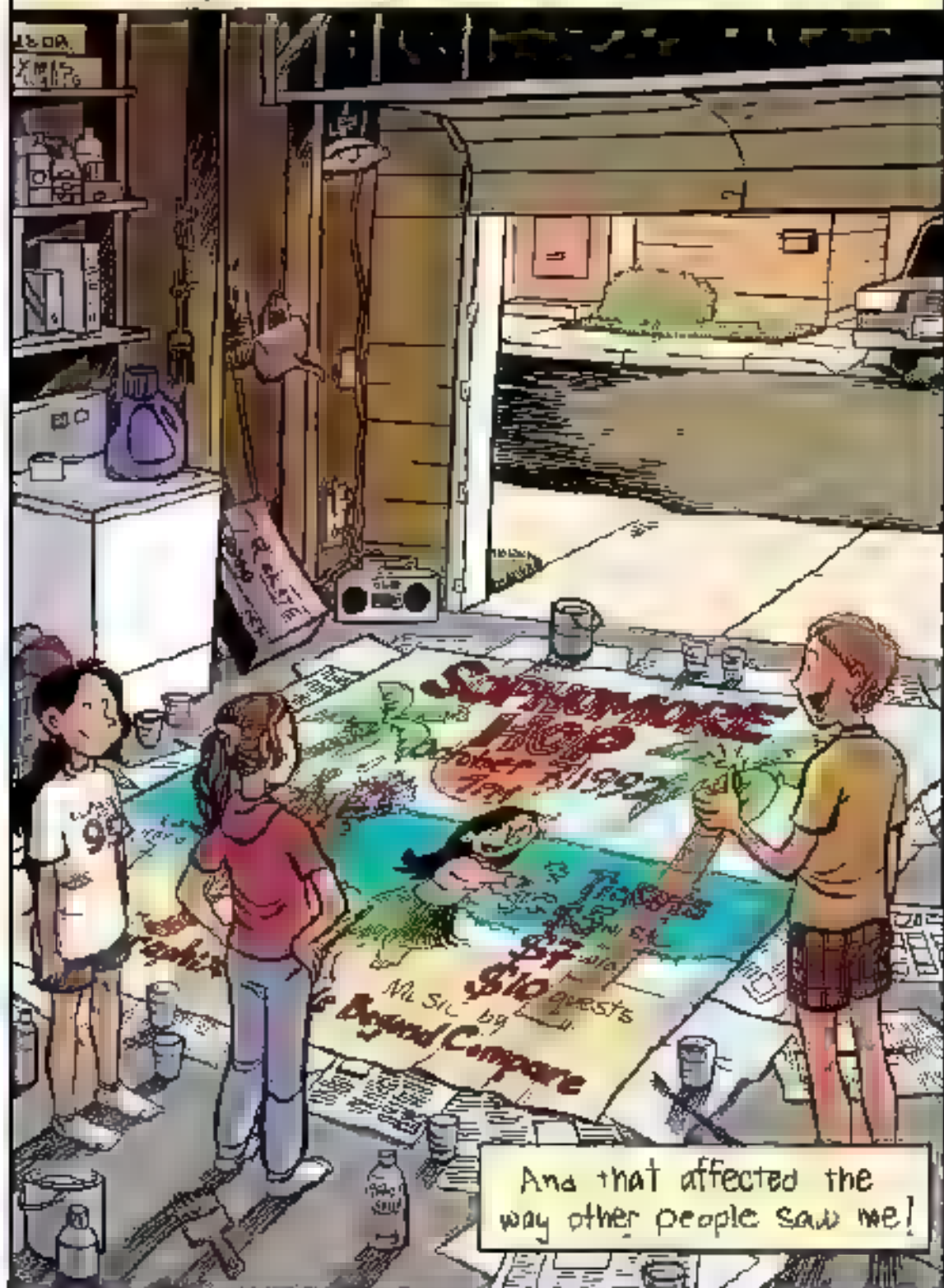
Instead, I threw my passion into things I enjoyed, rather than feeling sorry for myself



I realized that I had been letting the way I looked on the outside affect how I felt on the inside

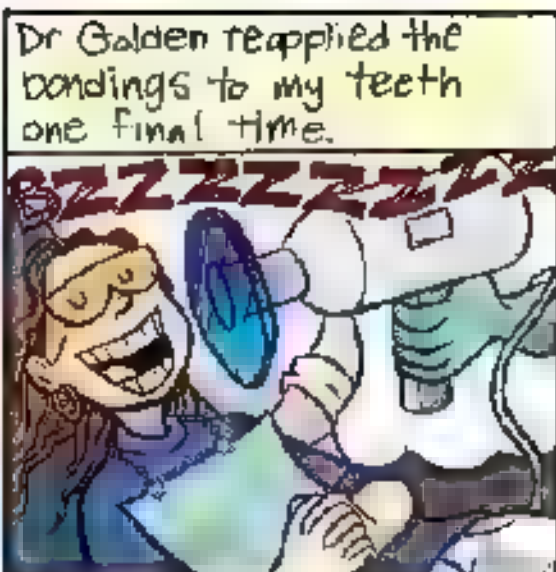


But the more I focused on my interests, the more  
it brought out things I liked about myself

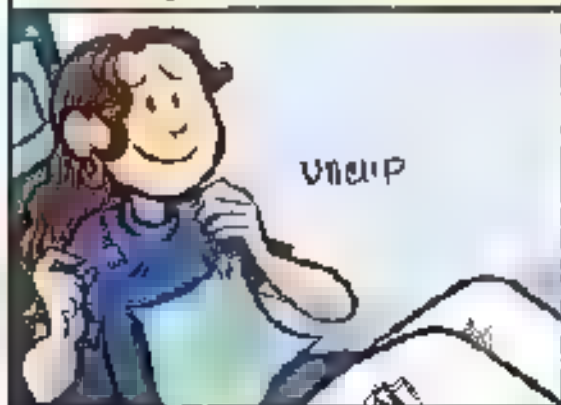


And that affected the  
way other people saw me!



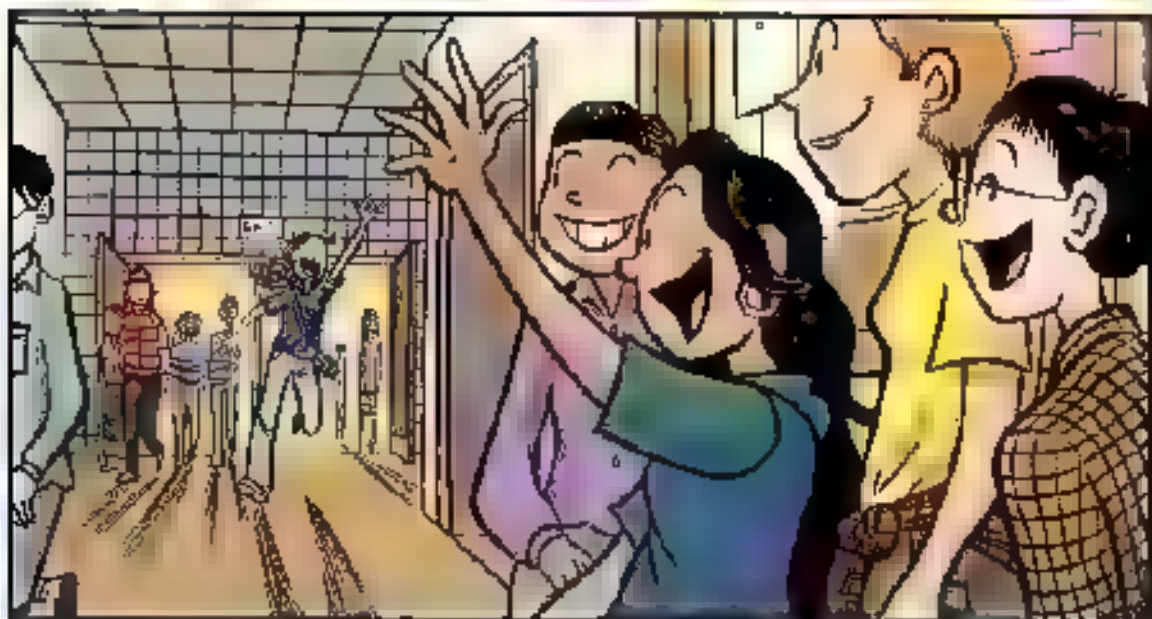


After that, I would have to start seeing my parents' dentist, Dr. Miller



Dr Golden only worked on kids teeth, and he had kept me on as a patient much longer than normal.

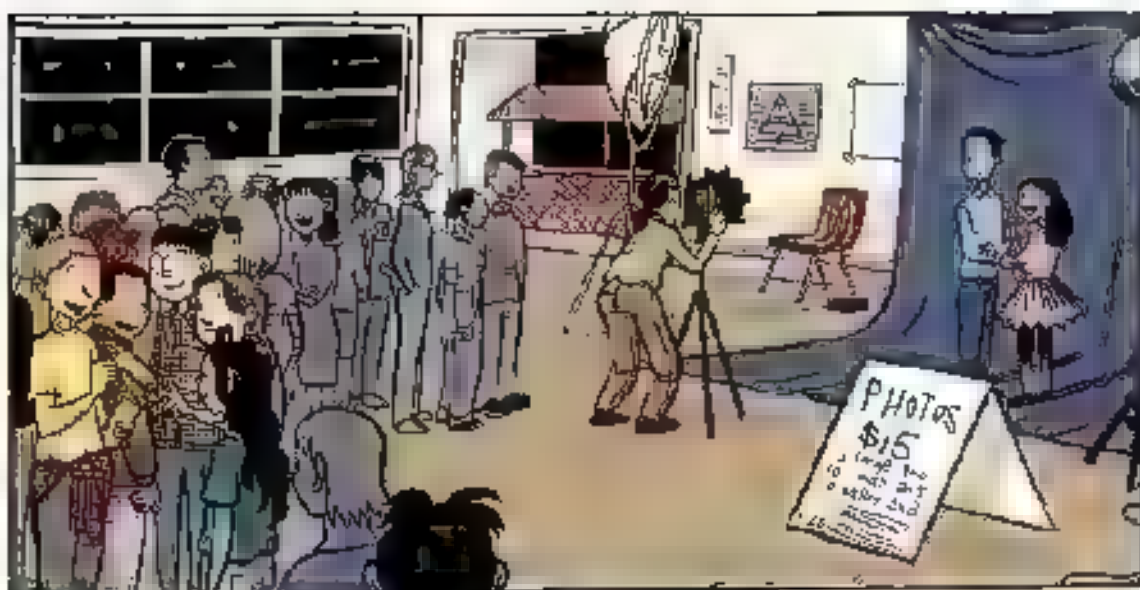


















The End!



## Thanks to . . .

First and foremost, Dave Roman, who makes me smile every day.

Mom, Dad, Amara, Will, and Grandina, for being good sports and a great family.

Lea Ada Franco (Hernandez), Josy Manley, and everyone at Orlanoblog.com, for giving a home to this project in its infancy. My friend and family dentist, Dr. Anne Spiegel, who evaluated the manuscript and gave me great encouragement along the way. David Saylor and Cassandra Pelham, for being a joy to work with. Phil Fakou, John Green, and Stephanie Yue, for helping make my work beautiful. Judy Hansen, for being the best agent I could hope to have.

Alice Harris, Erinadee Lamb, Carly Monaccio, Craig Arndt, Dalton Webb, Hope Larson, Jordyn Boshon, Kean Soo, Matt Loux, Nesaem Hrab, Rosemary Trevela, Ryan Estrada, and Yuko Ota, for lending a helping hand during the final stages of production.

All of my friends who wrote me yearbook notes.

Everyone who has shared their own personal dental dramas with me.

The city of San Francisco, for giving me great backgrounds to draw!

Archwired.com, Jenna Morishima, Heidi MacDonald, and Barbara Moon, for all their support and enthusiasm over the years.

Theresa Mendinza Parham, Marinn Vitus, Steve Flack, Alison Wigus, Zack Gialonga, Gina Gagliano, Barrister, Steve Hamaker, Seth Kushner, Neil Babra, and my extended family, wonderful friends, and readers, who have been invaluable.



## Author's Note

I've been telling people about what happened to my teeth ever since I knocked them out in sixth grade. The story had plenty of strange twists and turns, and I found myself saying, "Wait, it gets worse!" a lot. Eventually, I realized I really needed to get it all down on paper.

I had been writing short-story comics for several years, and my tooth tale seemed like a good candidate for a longer narrative comic.

In 2004 I was invited to contribute to a comics-based Web site, [Grlamatic.com](http://Grlamatic.com), and decided to run *Smile* as a weekly Webcomic. This was at the same time I began working on *The Babysitters Club* graphic novels for Scholastic, so the two projects grew and evolved in tandem. By the time I completed the fourth BSC graphic novel, I had drawn, serialized, and posted over 120 pages of *Smile* on the Web!

As I wrote and drew the story, I was able to look back and actually laugh at some of my more painful experiences. What I went through with my teeth wasn't fun, but I lived to tell the tale and came out of it a stronger person. And once *Smile* started to receive reader feedback, I was amazed by how many people had dental stories similar to my own! The process of creating *Smile* has been therapeutic for me, and has also put me in touch with hundreds of kindred spirits. For this I am very grateful.

Even though my smile looks normal now, it's very possible I'll face more dental drama in the future. Amazingly, I'm not afraid of dentists, or dental work. I have a lot of faith and trust in dentistry, and how it can improve people's lives. And on the bright side of things, beyond the work I've had done on my front teeth, I haven't had a cavity since I was six!

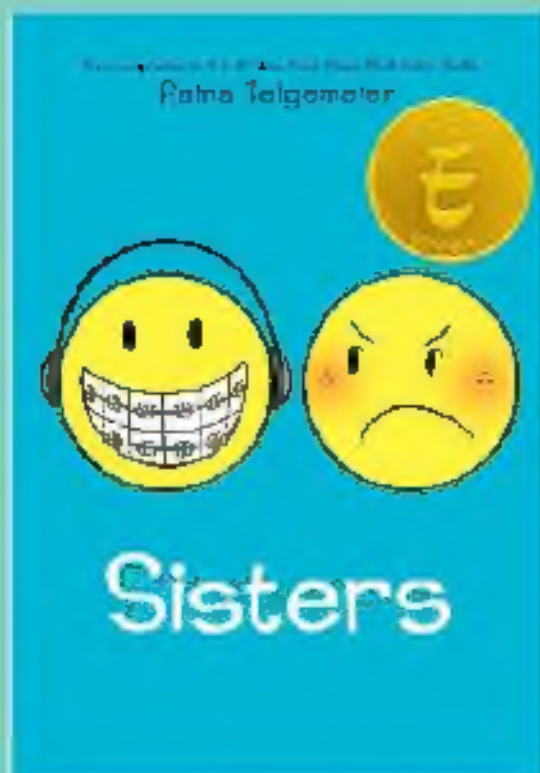
Thanks so much for reading.

-Raina

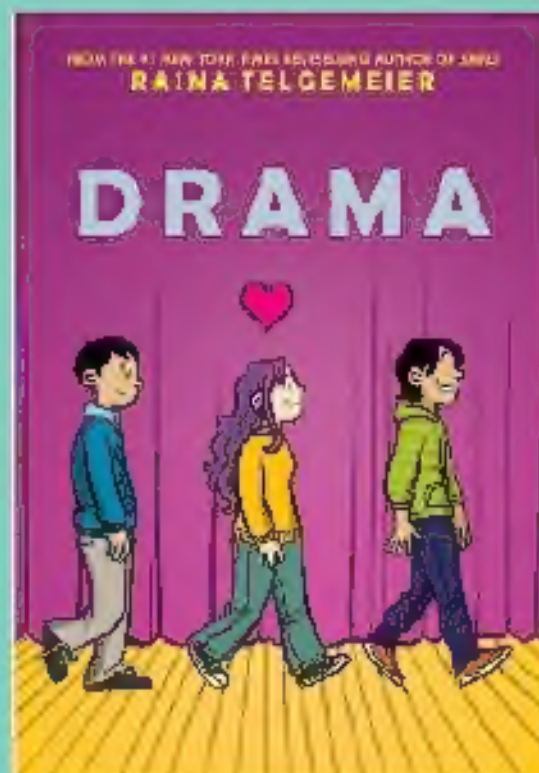


**Raina Telgemeier** is the #1 New York Times bestselling, multiple Eisner Award-winning creator of *Smile* and *Sisters*, which are both graphic memoirs based on her childhood. She is also the creator of *Drama*, which was named a Stonewall Honor Book and was selected for YALSA's Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens. Raina lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. To learn more, visit her online at [www.goRaina.com](http://www.goRaina.com).

Also by  
Raina Telgemeier



Raina can't wait to be a big sister. Amara is cute, but she's also cranky and mostly prefers to play by herself. Their relationship doesn't improve much over the years, but they must figure out how to get along. They are sisters, after all.



Callie is the set designer for her middle school's spring musical, and is determined to create a set worthy of Broadway. But between the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen, it's going to be a long way until opening night!